



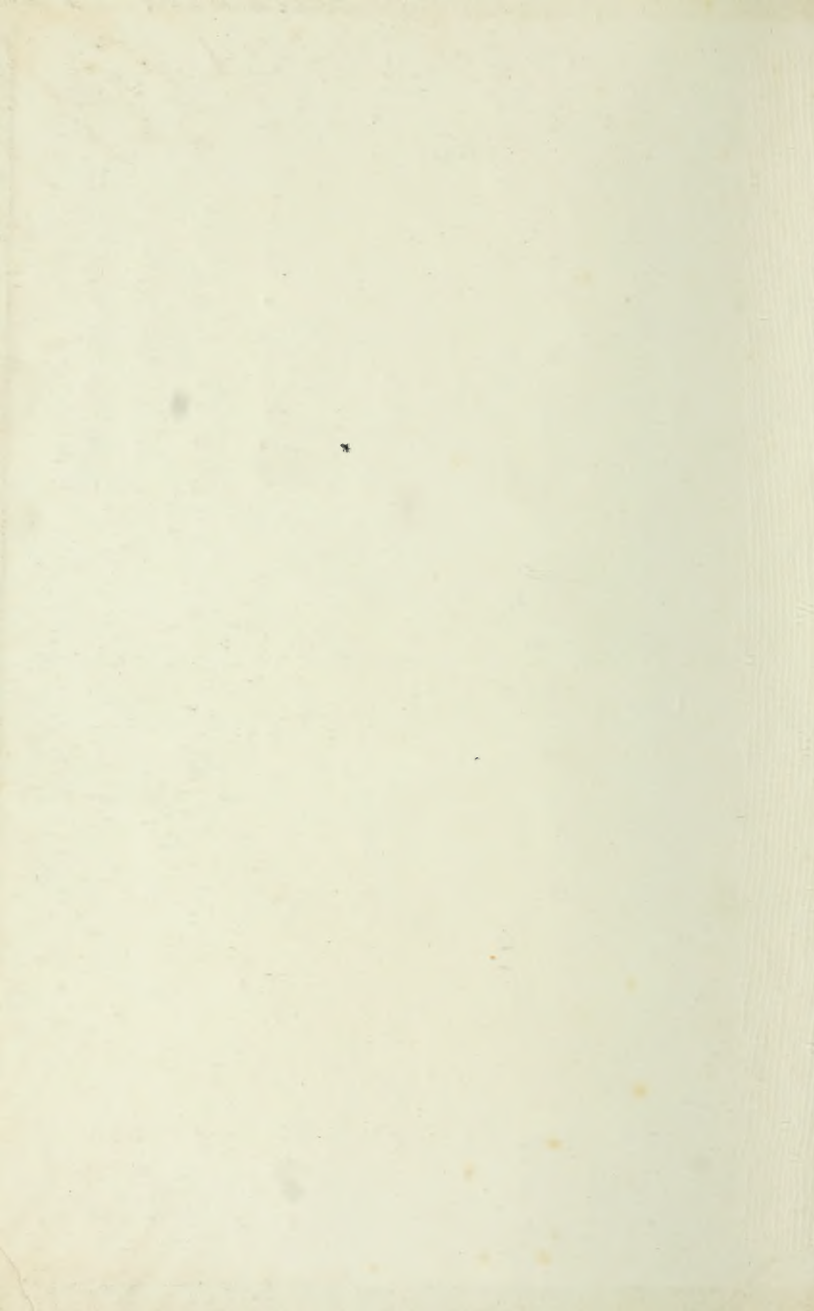
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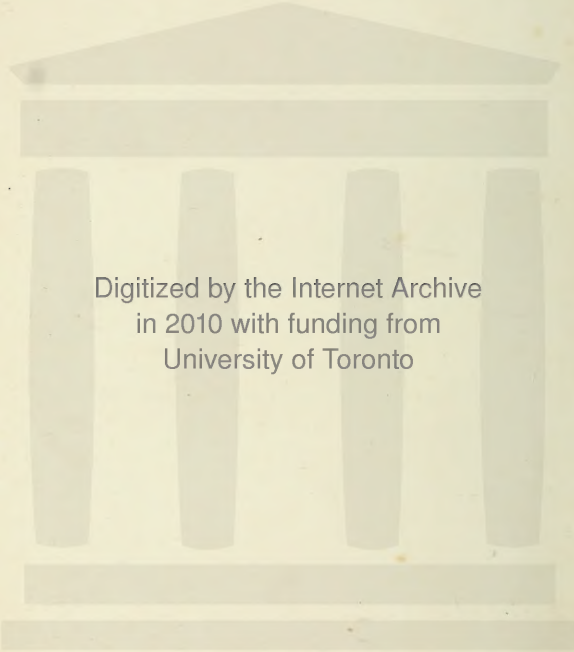
Coronation History.

1862-1902



BARNLEY BRITISH
Co-operative Society Ltd





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CORONATION HISTORY

OF THE

Barnsley British
Co-operative Society Limited.

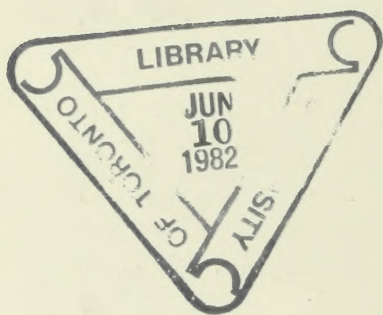
1862-1902.



MANCHESTER:

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETY'S PRINTING WORKS, HAMILTON ROAD,
LONGSIGHT.

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PREFACE.

THERE is no attempt within these pages to give a detailed history of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society Limited. This year it has completed its fortieth year of existence, and if nothing else the volume will add another souvenir to the Co-operators' already pleasant memories of the coronation of a new Monarch. This epoch in history is naturally reminiscent. The story of progress in varied matters affecting our every-day life has been recorded, and in this historical sketch, touching but the most momentous happenings in its career, the reader may learn what benefits Co-operation in Barnsley and district has conferred upon its supporters during the last four decades. When we remember that our late Queen Victoria reigned for over sixty years, it is evident after all that forty years are scarcely an ordinary chapter of life, and treated in this aspect the young Co-operator will realise what he owes to bygone workers. "Oft great effects from trifling causes spring" may surely be said of the work of the Society, and it is sought to tell the story of how the institution came into being, developed amid the vicissitudes of every-day life, until it stands to-day amongst the prominent Societies to be found in the land, and probably having achieved a greater measure of success during its career than any other Society.

The story is much like that of other Societies—how, in the days of scanty earnings, meagre education, and lack of social benefits or pleasures, a small band of uneducated yet shrewd,

PREFACE.

far-sighted, and, above all, lion-hearted men pinned their faith to the principle of Co-operation, though it had failed before, in the hope, which admittedly has been realised, of ameliorating the then miserable condition of the working classes. There were no facilities for Parliamentary legislation in those days as understood at the present time, and these men not only thought but acted to "improve life's shining hour." That they succeeded the ever adding of strength to the Society testifies. How much is owing to the founders and subsequent workers the reader may feel, remembering

"A grateful mind by owing not, but still pays at once,
Indebted and discharged."

It is said "History is philosophy teaching by examples," and if the perusal of the book teaches the young Co-operator on whom the future depends how much the success of the past depended upon sturdy loyalty, unbounded faith, and reasoned enterprise, then the book may have served some useful purpose. The small, but gradual, augmentation of capital laid the corner stone, and from distributing the chief necessaries of life the Society entered the field of production, and may yet do more towards the cherished ideal of the stalwart Co-operator that the problem of Capital and Labour may be solved by the application of Co-operative principles. It has dealt the death blow to the woeful system of credit, taught many the lesson of thrift, enabled hundreds to become their own landlords, and accomplished much in an educational sense. In the early days the movement had to combat ignorance, and as enlightenment grew so the movement spread, but to-day Co-operation has to cross swords with the weapon of boycott used by private traders. This is an age of Trusts, and if the term be applied to Co-operative Societies, then it has proved a Trust for the benefit of many, and is as widely different as the Poles from others which seek to enrich but a few capitalists.

PREFACE.

If amid all such obstacles so much has been accomplished, with success ever evident, and if it be

“Example is a living law, whose sway
Men more than all the written laws obey,”

it would be bold indeed to say what is not possible in future for the principle of Co-operation to achieve.

The writer is conscious of the imperfections in discharging the no light task undertaken of preparing this History, and takes this opportunity of tendering his thanks to several of the early workers who are happily still with us, and a large number of others who have readily assisted in supplying information of the early days of the Society.

November, 1902.



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CHAPTER I.

Barnsley and District Forty Years Ago.

“Lo! o’er Dearne’s stream that gently glides,
Bleak Barnsley’s cloud-wreathed head,
Where trade, not kind to all, provides
Her children’s well-earned bread.”

Rustic Wreath.



THE forty years' history of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society, like most other similar institutions of its kind, stands out as a monument in the Coronation Year of what the workers can accomplish by unity and perseverance. The majestic buildings in Barnsley and the surrounding district, its large membership, its huge capital, and its extensive ramifications through South Yorkshire, bear evidence of the great change, socially and morally, which has come over the workers. In addition to the benefits it confers daily on its purchasing and investing members, it has enabled hundreds to become their own landlords, and, during its career of forty years, has been more than a Savings Bank—a help in sickness, distress, and other trials.

Situated in a district where colliery disasters are, unhappily, too well known, the Society, during its career, has had to

struggle with disasters which are foreign to most Societies. So faithfully and thoughtfully have the Directors and Officers rendered assistance in times of need that their kindness is still gratefully remembered in some families, although more than thirty years have elapsed since their ancestors were recipients of its benefits. When scarcely nine months old, the Society, like the district, was thrown into mourning by one of those large disasters which are not unknown in the history of the South Yorkshire Coal Trade. The Society has many times been called upon to return to those who entrusted it with their savings no inconsiderable portion, to enable them to decently inter those most dear to them, cut off by sad colliery disasters, for, during its career, it has had to deal with the sad circumstances created by several serious explosions, where many of its members were numbered with the dead.

The first of these sad reminders of the miner's risk was the Edmund's Main Colliery explosion, which occurred at Worsbro' Dale, on December 8th, 1862, when fifty-nine men and boys were launched into eternity, and amongst the slain were some of the early members of the Society. The accident was a particularly sad one, numbers of the men being imprisoned in the workings for a long time after the disaster. Through the exertions of the then existing Miners' Association, the owners, who were proceeded against under Lord Campbell's Act, whilst not admitting their liability, paid over £1,550.

Four more years of the Society's career had only elapsed before the never-to-be-forgotten Old Oaks explosions occurred on December 12th and 13th, 1866, when 364 men and boys were killed, and sorrow was brought to almost every home in the locality. Many well-known members perished. The minutes of the Society contain many touching references to the sad disaster. At a Committee meeting held on the 14th December, 1866 a day after the second explosion—Mr. W. Hoey presiding, it was resolved, as far as possible, to relax the rules as to the withdrawal of shares to a discretionary limit, to meet the probable demands on the funds by the widows. A tea meeting, which had been fixed to be held soon after the calamity, was adjourned, and a donation of £10 was given to the relief fund, which amounted to the handsome sum of £48,747. 3s.

Mention is made of permission to withdraw the share or shares belonging to Mr. Smith, engineer, of Lund Hill, one of the brave volunteers who perished whilst in search of one who might be alive. Some idea of the effects of the disaster on the Society may be gathered from a note in the report for the quarter ending March, 1867, when it is stated the increase in business was not so large as in former quarters, "attributable to the awful and never-to-be-forgotten calamity at the Oaks Colliery." The greatest trial the Society ever had—which is dealt with elsewhere—was on the occasion of the great Miners' Strike in 1893. The stand the Committee took was an admirable one; not only did they grant considerable sums of money week by week to the relief funds, but members were allowed to withdraw their shares without notice. The valuable assistance given by the Society went a long way towards placing it in a very commendable position, and did much to alleviate distress and assist the miners of South Yorkshire to pull through such a struggle as was never before witnessed, and none will again care to see repeated. These and other memorable landmarks in the history of the Society are mentioned here as reminders of what has been accomplished.

The Society is now so internally bound up with the town and district, ranking amongst the largest ratepayers in the borough, that a history of this kind would be incomplete without some notice of the growth of the district where its network of branches exist. The population of the town in 1861, the year before the Society was established, was 17,885, an increase during the previous ten years of 2,969, or 19 per cent. The total increase since 1801 (the first census) was 14,279, or 395 per cent. At the last census (1901) the population was 41,086, an increase of 5,659 on the census of 1891. The town had then 8,563 inhabited houses, with a population of 20,545 males and 20,541 females. The increase in the population of the township (now borough) since the Society was established is 23,201. The ratable value of Barnsley in 1862 was £52,421, whereas last year it was £131,418, and it has since further grown. The increase in the ratable value during the fifty years previous to the Society being established was £46,510. Since the Society came into being it has increased by £68,997, a change in which the Society has taken an active part, and whereas the population

in the area covered by the Society numbered about 40,000 at the time of its establishment it now numbers about 100,000.

At the time the Society was established a good deal of distress prevailed amongst the working classes. Other notable events occurred also, for it was only a few days before the first Store was opened that the preamble of the Ingbirchworth Waterworks Bill had been declared proved, and on the 3rd of June the Royal Assent was given to the Bill by Commission. The day the Store was inaugurated the Barnsley Coal Railway, a line which promised to give great facilities to the South Yorkshire district, was being argued before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, only to be rejected in the following month. Scarcely a year before the Society made its appearance the Barnsley Cemetery had been consecrated. Mrs. Locke, the wife of the late Mr. Joseph Locke, M.P., a name known and revered in the history of Barnsley, had a year before given £3,000 to the Trustees of the Barnsley Grammar School for ten free scholarships, thus aiding a movement which the Society has for many years assisted out of its Educational funds. The Locke Park, given by that estimable lady and her revered sister (Miss Mc.Creery), was opened three months after the Society was established, so that its foundations were laid in important times; and many of the early fathers of the movement were greatly interested and took no inconsiderable part in bringing about these lasting and important benefits.

The vast and valuable coalfield around Barnsley, now fast radiating towards other districts where the Society has from year to year planted many of its branches, was, so to speak, in its infancy. The collieries then producing a few hundred tons per day from seams hardly 300 yards deep were considered large concerns, but the Society now places its branches and takes part in the comfortable housing of the miner and other workers in districts where 2,500 tons per day are being raised, and that at collieries where the seams are more than double the depth of the workings at the time the Society came into existence. Exception is often taken to the distance the Society takes its goods, but it must be remembered that the Committee cannot bring the coal seams to Barnsley; they must, therefore, take their goods to where the coal is being worked. Probably no Co-operative Society has covered so large and so important a

coalfield, which is still expanding. Collieries are being developed and others are projected, which will take three or four years to sink, and will be developed at a cost of probably a quarter of a million of money. It is said "It is dangerous to prophesy until you know," and, therefore, such action is attended with some risk. There is, however, some certainty in knowing that the coalfields of South Yorkshire, in which the Society is so deeply interested, will not be worked out to-morrow. Several of its most recent Stores have been planted in what, up to 1874, was described by experts as one of the largest undeveloped coalfields in the county, extending from Hemsworth to Hickleton, about eighty square miles in extent, and, even when these have been worked out, the town and district will still have what former Barnsley orators were so fond of describing at the chief local functions in after-dinner speeches as the "valuable Silkstone seam, which underlies the Barnsley bed, and will be a mine of wealth to the town and district so long as ever a chimney smokes in it."





CHAPTER II.

Early Attempts at Co-operation in Barnsley District.

THE idea of the Co-operative principle has been long rooted in this district, for early in the last century there lived sowers in the Co-operative field, but, whether for want of proper care in tilling the soil or lack of the nutritive Co-operative substance in the soil, the plant hardly gathered strength to weather the storm, and failure came, in some cases quite early, and in others after a short life. But, Phœnix-like, there arose from the ashes the great Society which is the subject of this history.

The weavers of "Wilson Piece" and "Barebones" had a Co-operative Store at the top of Joseph Street, Barnsley, as shown in "Baines' Directory" of 1822. It was but a small concern, dealing only in the most ordinary necessities of life, for the shareholders and customers invested but little of their hard-earned savings in luxuries. It had a pretty long existence, for it was there in 1840. One of the early managers was a weaver named Brown, who was succeeded by another named Taylor.

The Society was wholly supported by handloom weavers who resided in "Wilson Piece," so called owing to the allotment being awarded, on the enclosure of Barnsley Common in 1777, to John Wilson, nephew of William Wilson, founder of the Barnsley linen trade. At a Co-operative meeting held at Wombwell in September, 1888, the late Mr. J. T. W. Mitchell, of Manchester, stated that there was a Co-operative Store in Barnsley in the year 1829, and a George

Marshall represented Barnsley at a Co-operative Congress in 1832. Not only was there a Store, but the Co-operators of that date had a library of seventy-two volumes.

A Co-operative Store, the offshoot of a London organisation, intended as a rival to the present Society, carried on business at 21, Wellington Street, Barnsley, and was managed by Mr. George Haigh, once a member of the Barnsley Flour Society. Its progress was never great, and after a short existence it became extinct.

Some forty-five years ago a small Society existed at Ardsley, and over the door of the small shop in which the business was conducted was the sign surmounted by a beehive. The business done was never a large one, but the handful of members learned to taste the sweets of Co-operation.

A Co-operative Society also existed at Wombwell for some years before the Barnsley British Co-operative Society came into being, and was bought up by the latter Society in 1866.

A small Society, too, existed at Worsbro' Dale, with a branch at Worsbro' Bridge, about the same period, but soon afterwards came to grief.

The Cawthorne Co-operative Society, which owes much to the venerable and respected owner of the village, Colonel W. S. Stanhope, C.B., and his revered father, is still in existence. The spirit of Co-operation was manifest in the village something like sixty years ago, and the present Society, "The Cawthorne Industrial Co-operative Society Limited," recently held its sixty-eighth half-yearly meeting, so that it has been in existence over thirty years.

As stated, the efforts, though futile individually, had left their marks in a collective sense. It was in 1860 when the need of another attempt to establish a Co-operative Society was advocated, and amongst the few promoters was ever prominent the late Mr. Adcroft, who was then working at the Old Oaks Colliery, and from about this time the movement took heart.



CHAPTER III.

How the Society Originated.

SEEING that forty years have elapsed since a little band of earnest workers—not all Co-operators—met at Tinker's Temperance Hotel, May Day Green, Barnsley, and formed the Society, no excuse is needed for more than a passing notice of who they were and in what circumstances of life they were placed. Long prior to the formation of the Society these men had met again and again. They were of varied views and of totally different politics, but of dispositions which knew no reverse. Their discussions were always of a temperate character. On political matters they were often totally at variance, but they "agreed to differ," and parted and met again, imbued with the same cordiality and a desire to assist rather than retard each others' progress; in a word, they for once belied the well-known quotation "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

Amongst the visitors to the hotel was a Lancashire man named George Adcroft, who for many years had been a member of the Rochdale Pioneers' Society, and who, as will be seen, proved to be a thorough Co-operator in both act and deed. Some motive—higher wages, probably—induced him to migrate from Lancashire and come into the Barnsley district. For two or three years before the conception of the Society he had been working at the Old Oaks Colliery along with

Charles Crossley, James Kaye, and other early promoters of the Society. A man imbued with large ideas of Co-operation, a fluent speaker, and of determined character, he preached it in and out of season. There are yet a few who have not been "gathered to their fathers" who remember the earnest way in which he seized all opportunities to drill the doctrines of Co-operation into the ears of his fellow-workmen. The writer can remember what were then termed his "new-fangled ideas" and his "dreams" of the future of the movement, when in his earnest speeches delivered to a handful of members in Market Street School he declared that he should live to see the time when the produce sold at Co-operative Stores was brought across the seas in ships owned by Co-operators. To not a few even "of those in the faith" the idea seemed to be very remote, if not impossible, but the readers of this history know it is now a stern reality. Co-operative ships are now not unknown either in British or foreign waters, and the Society has itself a Barnsley gentleman (Mr. James Fairclough) as a representative on the Wholesale Society, who has been entrusted with the mission to visit the New World and far off lands to purchase goods for conveyance to this country, in many instances in ships owned by Co-operators.



MR. CHARLES CROSSLEY,
An old worker.

Adcroft, for some cause or other, left the Old Oaks Colliery and went to work at Strafford Collieries, and some years after he left the district. One instance amongst many may be quoted as showing his determination to make the Society a success. The Committee, who in the early days of the Society did most of the purchasing, became possessed of a bad tub of butter. The rank and file of arduous Co-operators shunned the indifferent butter, but Adcroft showed his true spirit by calling every Saturday night and taking a pound of the butter home until the stock was exhausted. He was one of the first Committee-men, and served in 1863, along with several of the originators. He does not appear to have attended much longer, as the minutes show he withdrew his shares at

Easter, 1865, and left the town. He has gone to his rest, and some mark by Co-operators ought to distinguish the grave of so humble, yet worthy, a disciple of the movement.

Adcroft's preaching, together with a movement made by the Barnsley Flour Society, which was composed chiefly of working men shareholders, gave an impetus to the wishes of the earnest band which met at Tinker's. The Flour Society, requiring more capital, agreed to enlarge its borders, and allowed members to take up a certain number of shares at par, but new shareholders were called upon to pay 25s. per £1 share. Amongst the promoters were several Directors of the Flour Society, but there were other earnest disciples of Co-operation who were not shareholders, and had neither tasted the sweets of office nor the dividends which were paid on capital only. These argued that, seeing the Flour Society had been such a success in providing the "Staff of Life," a Society to supply other necessaries of life could be easily established, and could be formed into a large and beneficial commercial undertaking. About the month of July, 1861, it was resolved that subscriptions at the rate of 1s. per week per member should be collected. The late Mr. W. Tinker was chosen Treasurer, and, as shown by his book, he commenced to take subscriptions on August 3rd, 1861, when the amount collected reached 9s. On August 10th 10s. was received; August 17th, 12s.; August 24th, 16s.; August 31st, 18s.; the total for the month being £3. 5s. In the month of September £2. 7s. was received, whilst in the month of October £3. 1s. was paid to the Treasurer. The receipts during the month of November amounted to £4. 8s. 6d. The closing month of the year shows that £3. 9s. was subscribed. The subscriptions were continued at about the same rate during the months of January and February, 1862, and up to the time the shop was opened, something like £30 having been totalled with which to commence operations.

The Committee now felt sufficient headway had been made to justify their appealing to the general public, and it is interesting to find the only public appeal in the Society's history for membership; but it shows the men meant business and had belief in the foundation stone having been "well and truly" laid, for the following advertisement appeared in the *Barnsley Record* for March 15th and 22nd, 1862:—

BARNSELY BRITISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The public of Barnsley and neighbourhood are respectfully informed that the Barnsley British Co-operative Society is now open to receive proposals for membership. Persons desirous of entering will receive the necessary information by applying to the Secretary, at Mr. Tinker's Temperance Hotel, on any Saturday evening, from eight to half-past nine o'clock, or at the place of business, No. 26, Market Street, on Tuesday evenings from eight to nine o'clock.





CHAPTER IV.

The Early Workers.

IN order more accurately to give the reader an idea of those who were the pioneers of the Society, a brief sketch of who they were and how they became wedded to the movement may be here given. It may be mentioned that amongst the early prominent members and office bearers were several tradesmen, who no doubt found the position did not fit their walks in life—in fact, some early minutes of the Committee's transactions debarred tradesmen from officiating on the Committee; this will account for the disappearance of some of the early Committee-men. Others, like the late Mr. Adcroft and Mr. Steel, left the town and district a few years after the birth of the Society. The leading pioneers were as under:—

ADCROFT.—To George Adcroft must be given the praise for first promulgating the doctrine of Co-operation amongst those who were the originators of the Society. He came from Lancashire to work at the Oaks Colliery along with Charles Crossley and the late James Kaye. He never ceased when at work to make known to his fellow-workers the benefits of Co-operation. Being a teetotaler, he found his way to Tinker's Temperance Hotel, where he expounded the doctrine freely, and greatly assisted in forming the Society. He served on the first Committee, and was re-elected in 1863, but left the town in 1865. He resided some time in Batley, and died several years ago.

BLAKEY.—Benjamin Blakey, who was a warehouseman, was one of the early members. He was first elected on the Committee at the half-yearly meeting in 1865, and served

in 1866, but was then defeated. He found his way back in June, 1868, and sat until August, 1871. He was a somewhat reserved but shrewd man, and did good work for the Society.

CORLESS.—But little is known of the social life and movements of John Corless, who was a book canvasser by profession, and not very intimately connected with the town. He was one of the nine who paid their first subscriptions at Tinker's Temperance Hotel in 1861. He was, however, a thorough Co-operator, and took a leading part in the establishment of the Society. He was President of the Society in 1863, and, although he was not re-elected in 1864, he served in 1865, and, as the minutes show, he took a most active part in all important matters which came before the Committee and the general meetings of shareholders until he left the town in September, 1866. At a general meeting held on the 9th of October, 1865, he resigned his position as a member of the Committee, and Timothy Naylor, of Dodworth, was appointed to serve in his place to the end of the year. At the same meeting he introduced the question of joining the wholesale agency, now the Co-operative Wholesale Society. He produced the rules of that Society, the trade list, and a letter from the Secretary, and made such an impression on the meeting that it was resolved that the Secretary "ascertain all possible information," and at the general meeting of shareholders held on January 8th, 1866, it was resolved by 32 votes to 13 to join the Society. Nothing can be ascertained of his whereabouts after he left Barnsley.

FOX.—John King Fox, who lived at Beechfield, was cashier at Messrs. Carter's, linen manufacturers. He was an early member, and threw in his lot through the influence of Mr. B. Pinder, who then lived at the Sheffield Road tollbar. He was first elected a member of the Committee early in 1864, and sat in 1865, but was not re-elected in 1866.

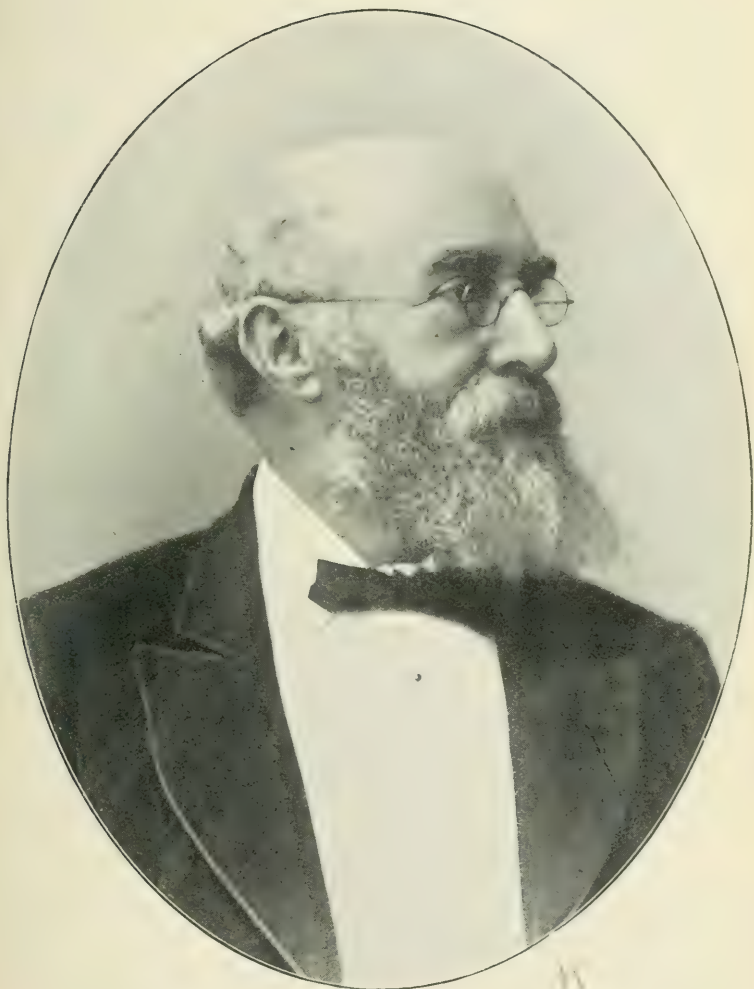
GARLICK.—John Garlick was elected on the Committee at the beginning of 1864, and only served until July in the same year; owing to his inability to attend the meetings he resigned his position.

HAIGH.—Matthew Haigh was a weaver by trade, and for many years lived at Measbro' Dyke. He had the reputation of being a thrifty, hard-working man, his connection with the Society probably arising from his being an active shareholder

in the Barnsley Flour and Provision Company. He was a member of the Committee in 1863, but did not serve in the following year. He was, however, always a consistent member. He was one of the evicted workers at the Oaks Colliery strike in 1868, and he and his family camped out in a field at Hoyle Mill. In after life he worked at the Pinder Oaks as fireman until the colliery was finished, but during the latter part of his life he worked for the Barnsley Corporation.

HILDRED. —William Hildred, who was one of the first members, and served on the first Committee, was a tailor, and worked with Robert Steel, who was the first Secretary. He afterwards commenced business with his son-in-law, Mr. Ashworth, in premises on the site of the shop now occupied by Mr. Harvey, tobacconist, Queen Street. He was re-elected in 1833 and 1864 at the head of the poll. He resigned at the quarterly meeting held in April, 1865.

KAY. Any history of the Society would be incomplete without more than a passing notice of the career of the late George Kay, who became its first salesman, and, as stated, officiated as Secretary up to his death. Mr. George Kay served his time as a warehouseman with Messrs. Jackson, linen manufacturers, Church Street, and was a friend, if not a companion, of the late Rowland Jackson, the author of the "History of Barnsley," who was a warehouseman at the same place. Although a teetotaler, he does not seem to have mixed much with the originators who met at Tinker's. He was, however, well known to most of them. When the deputation which was empowered by the promoters to look out for a shop approached the late Mr. Edwin Kay, the owner of the first Store in Market Street, he at once accepted them as tenants, and remarked that if they had not selected a salesman he could find them one as well, mentioning the late Mr. George Kay, his nephew. Singular to say, the deputation intimated that they had had their eye on him, and he was appointed salesman, manager, &c., at a salary of 15s. per week, with a house, gas, and coal, being advanced to 20s. per week at the end of the first quarter. Although Mr. Kay, as stated, was a warehouseman by trade, he had received a sort of training in his uncle's shop in Shambles Street. His uncle, who acquired a fortune, and built Victoria House, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, was, in addition to owning a warp dressing



Mr. GEORGE KAY.

factory, a grocer, and for many years had an extensive reputation for supplying "Yorkshire Hams" to leading Metropolitan consumers. During the winter season he would usually kill seven or eight pigs weekly, and salted the hams and bacon. In this way the young warehouseman entered upon his manifold duties with some smattering of a knowledge of a small general grocery business, although in the fifth quarter's balance sheet appears this significant entry under the head of "Additional Fixtures," "Book, 'Shopkeeper's Guide,' 1s. 6d."

The modest little Store, which was tenanted at a rent of £14 per annum, was opened on the 13th of March, 1862, without any ceremony.

The whole of the goods, some £28 in value, had been procured, and several shareholders had assisted the night before to spread out the limited stock to make it look as large and attractive as possible. The small stock of groceries were supplied by the late Mr. Smorfitt, grocer, Shambles Street, and two bags of flour were purchased from the late Mr. James Rodgers, whose shop in New Street the Committee rented a few months later. It is related that on the shop being opened, soon after eight in the morning, the first customer was the late Mr. Jos. Fish, picture framer, of Market Street, Barnsley, well known as the father of the Barnsley Working Men's Conservative Association. His order was 2lbs. of soap, and, strange to say, the customer avowed himself as not a believer in the new movement, but added he liked to encourage his neighbours. Like many more he lived to see the movement assume mighty dimensions. The writer remembers the appearance of the first Store, which was little different from a small village grocer's shop. The window of the shop was as it is now, and in the small panes of glass were placed the small packets of starch, black lead, blue, with a sprinkling of sugar, currants, &c., on the bottom of the window. Its appearance was not imposing, and it is stated that two of the members walked down the opposite side of the street but never crossed the road, acknowledging afterwards that they were ashamed of their new Store. Inside, however, all was clean, orderly, and tidy. The store-keeper and his wife were then in their youthful days; both knew a smattering of shopkeeping, for Mr. Kay, as previously

stated, had often officiated in his uncle's shop, whilst Mrs. Kay had tried her hand at shopkeeping in a little cottage in one of the terraces off Churchfield, Barnsley.

Both were on the memorable opening day in the best of spirits, and as the customers made their purchases they were put down in an ordinary memorandum book, causing one woman to remark that she had always carried a shop book, but there they had to pay for the goods before they took them away.

The progress of the Society under Mr. Kay's reign is dealt with elsewhere, but it is only right to say that he lived to see "the acorn become a mighty oak," which spread its branches over a wide and prolific area, where many substantial erections bearing the Society's name are to be found.

In Mr. Kay the Society found an agreeable, honest, and obliging servant, a man beloved by all, whose memory will live whilst those who knew him are allowed to remain here, and generations of Co-operators yet to come will revere his name as handed down from father to son and their descendants. It was, however, singular that nearly a quarter of a century elapsed before those who knew and valued his work and that of his colleague gave tangible expression to their esteem by presenting him and Mr. James Fairclough (President) with a clock and a pair of bronzes each. Since then so many marks of respect have been conferred upon workers in connection with the Society that this record comes with more than ordinary force, being the first testimonials presented to any servants of the Society. It is also unique inasmuch as most of those who took part in the interesting function are still alive and are still working for the Society. The gathering was a notable one, inasmuch as it was the first of its kind which took place in the Society's Hall in Wellington Street, only just previously completed. The function was attended by about 250 employés, their wives, and friends. Mr. Gandy, who then, as now, was buyer and manager of the Provision Department, presided. Arrangements were made for Mr. Vernon, of Warren, the oldest employé of the Society, to make the presentation. He was, however, detained by illness, and Mr. W. Reeve, the manager of the Boot and Shoe Department, who, in the Coronation Year, still holds the same post, presented Mr. Fairclough

with a clock, suitably inscribed, purchased by the employé of the Society, and the bronze ornaments were presented by Mr. Jones, of Dodworth. Mr. George Heald presented a similar clock, and Mr. Wilson, of Hoyland, a pair of bronzes to Mr. George Kay (Secretary). The inscription on each clock recorded the fact that they were presented to each gentleman "as a token of their respect and appreciation for their long and valuable services rendered to the Society." Each gentleman replied in suitable terms.

KAYE.—James Kaye, one of the pioneers, was a pit carpenter, and worked with Adcroft and others at the Oaks Colliery. He was one of the first subscribers, and served on the first Committee. He was for many years well known in connection with the movement, and was an early President. He built a large number of houses which now form Waltham Street, between Sheffield Road and Doncaster Road, and died about the year 1870.

KNOWTHORPE.—Joseph Knowthorpe was one of the workers at the Oaks Quarry, and became contaminated, so to speak, with the doctrine preached by George Adcroft. He was known to his colleagues as an honest, straightforward working man, and a staunch, although not over enthusiastic, Co-operator. He served on the Committee in 1863, and was honoured with the post of President at the beginning of 1863. He, however, resigned at the end of the half year, and was followed by the late Mr. Charles Lees. At the end of August, 1902, he was living at Ardsley.

LAWTON.—This gentleman, at the time he became connected with the Society, was cashier at Messrs. Sutcliffe's Colliery, which was situated on the upper side of Locke Park, but the pit was worked out many years ago. The firm had an office in a shop in Peel Street, near the Millstone Inn, and it was there that George Lawton generally was to be found. He was at that period a well-known figure in the town, being a Director of the Barnsley Flour and Provision Company, which afterwards became intimately bound up with the trading department of the Society. At this period he was Secretary, and was succeeded by the late respected and esteemed Mr. George Kay, appointed at the general meeting of the Society held September 30th, 1867, who held the appointment up to his death.

LEES.—Charles Lees, who was a tailor by trade, and was a teetotaler, was one whose connection with the Society was formed at Tinker's Temperance Hotel. He was not a member of the first Committee, but was elected in 1863, and in 1864 he was appointed President in the place of Mr. Joseph Knowthorpe, who resigned. Mr. Lees was appointed until the end of the year, when the late Mr. William Tinker was appointed for the year 1865. Mr. Lees seems to have severed his connection with the official life of the Society, as he was not elected on the Committee for 1864. He lived for many years in Duke Street, where he carried on business as a tailor, but the after-part of his life was mainly devoted to officiating at furniture sales. He died in 1902.



MR. NELSON MATTHEWS.

MATTHEWS.—Nelson Matthews, with one or two of his early colleagues, is still living. He was not only one of the original promoters of the Society, but he served on the first Committee, resigning on being appointed Manager of the first Store the Society opened at Dodworth in 1863. It may be interesting to state that he was a candidate for the position of Manager of the first Store opened in Market Street, and was only rejected by the casting vote of the Chairman, which was given for the

late Mr. George Kay. He has several times sat on the Committee in more recent years. He was re-elected at the half-yearly meeting held in December, 1873, but was rejected in August, 1874. At the half-yearly meeting in December, 1875, he was again re-elected, and sat until 1883, when he resigned to manage the Park Road Store. However, upon resigning the last-named post, he was again elected in August, 1894, and sat until June, 1898, when he was defeated, but was re-elected at the next election in December of the same year, being again defeated in June, 1901, and he has since lived retired. Mr. Matthews managed the Dodworth Store eleven years, and worked it up from £40 per week

to £200 per week, when he resigned the post to go into the watch and clock trade. In early life Mr. Matthews worked in the pit, but afterwards turned his attention to colliery engine-tenting, which he followed for a period of fourteen years. He came from the Flockton Main Colliery, Lepton, to Dodworth, and for some time he worked at Messrs. Charlesworth's (now Church Lane Colliery), Dodworth, prior to undertaking the position of Co-operative Storekeeper. On his leaving the Committee in 1901 Mr. Matthews was presented with a beautiful gold watch, suitably inscribed, by the Committee and officials of the Co-operative Society.

MILNER.—George Milner, one of the early members, was a warehouseman. He was elected on the Committee in June, 1866, and sat until the close of 1867.

MORLEY.—William Morley, who was a stay manufacturer, carrying on business in the Windmill Inn Yard, Shambles Street, was also a frequent visitor at Tinker's Hotel, and was one of the early members of the Society. He was never a strong Co-operator. He, however, was induced to serve on the first Committee, but was not re-elected in 1863. He did not remain a member for any lengthened period.

PARKIN.—William Parkin, who was a member of the Committee in 1863-4-5, was a plumber by trade and a Yankee by birth. He lived in Wellington Street, Barnsley, and was in those days well known in the town. He left Barnsley soon after his last tenure of office as a Committee-man expired, and returned to America.

PINDER.—Benjamin Pinder was a native of Hoylandswaine, where he followed the trade of a nailmaker. Afterwards he became a tollbar keeper, and for many years he lived at the Sheffield Road and Hunningley Lane tollbars, and acted as collector of tolls for Messrs. Bower and Co., of Hunslet, the lessors of the roads. He was a frequenter of Tinker's Temperance Hotel, and one of those who paid his shilling per week towards starting the Society. He served on the first Committee, and was the Society's first permanent Treasurer, and was made President in the latter half of 1868, serving up to 1870. He frequently officiated as purchaser of property for the Society, and often found money to pay deposits until the Society was in a position to do so. The Sheffield Road tollbar house was a meeting place where the formation and

affairs were often discussed. Kindred spirits met there, amongst whom was Geo. Brooke, a handloom weaver, of Union Street, in whose name the first tea and tobacco licence for the Society was taken out.

RHYMER. Thomas Rhymer, who was a handloom weaver by trade, living in Winn Street, Barnsley, was one of the early members, and was elected on the Committee in 1863. A quiet, industrious man, he became a pattern designer, and was for a long series of years in the employ of Messrs. Harvey, linen manufacturers. He was afterwards in the employ of Messrs. T. Taylor and Sons, linen manufacturers, and died in August, 1899, at a ripe old age. He was a member of the Society up to his death, and his widow, who died three years ago, was also a member. Deceased was father to Mr. Rhymer, boot and shoe maker, Peel Street and New Street, Barnsley.

SMEATON. Thomas Smeaton, who was a handloom weaver, and lived in Union Row, was one of the early converts to Co-operation. He was elected a member of the Committee in January, 1865, but was not re-elected in the following year. He died about 1873, and left a widow who survived him several years. Although not in affluent circumstances, he was a faithful member, and was one of the ardent disciples who arranged the scanty stock before the opening of the first Store, and also was Mr. George Kay's first paid assistant. A minute in the books appointed him to attend on Friday evenings to assist Mr. Kay with the sale of flour.

STEEL. Amongst the originators of the Society was Robert Steel, an Irishman, and by trade a tailor. He was one of those who visited the Temperance Hotel, and took part in the discussions on various topics. During the early period of his residence in Barnsley he worked for the late Mr. Thomas Cope, who carried on a tailoring business in the shop now tenanted by Messrs. Merryweather, Market Hill. Steel, at the time the Society was originated, was in the service of Messrs. Joseph Shaw Exors. as bookkeeper. After the business was taken over by Messrs. Neatby and Sons he was appointed traveller and salesman. He was not a very strong Co-operator, but was appointed first Secretary. He, however, did not continue long in the office, leaving the town soon afterwards for Manchester to manage a business for the firm. Evil days came over him, and towards

the end he was living not in the most affluent circumstances at Batley.

TINKER.—This gentleman, William Tinker, was the proprietor of the Temperance Hotel bearing his name, where the meetings of the Society took place. He acted as Treasurer before the Society was established; his subscription book shows that the original title of the Society was "The Barnsley British Equitable Co-operative Society," but on the advice of the Registrar of Friendly Societies the title was altered to the "Barnsley British Co-operative Society." He first began to take subscriptions on August 31st, 1861, when he received 9s. He continued to act as Treasurer until Mr. Pinder was appointed. He was the Society's first President, and served in that capacity in 1865, 1866, and 1867. He soon after withdrew from the Society, and his death occurred a number of years ago. His brother Henry only died in June, 1902, at Silkstone Common.

WALKER.—Israel Walker was a well-known and respected townsman in his day. He was an early disciple to the cause, and was elected on the Committee in June, 1866, but only sat until the end of the year 1867.

WHITHAM.—Thomas Whitham, whose photo appears on page 69, was one of the early workers connected with the Society, and served as a Committee-man in 1868, 1869, 1872, and 1873. He was a handloom weaver, this, at that period, being an important and thriving industry, and it is interesting to know that he was the first Manager of the Penistone branch Store. He was the father of the present Secretary, Mr. Charles E. Whitham, to whom reference is elsewhere made.

WRAY.—James Wray was a stay manufacturer, and carried on business in Blucher Street, Barnsley. He was also a teetotaler, and one of the first members. He was placed on the first Committee, and was re-elected in 1863. He was of a reserved disposition, and his ardour for the movement seems to have cooled early, as he does not appear to have been elected on the Committee after 1863.



THE FIRST STORE.



CENTRAL GROCERY AND CONFECTIONERY.



CHAPTER V.

The First Store, 1862 to 1863.

HAVING digressed slightly from the thread of the story, reference must be made to the actual commencement of business. Although scarcely a year had elapsed since the Treasurer was instructed to commence taking subscriptions the Committee were anxious to commence business. They were all on the look out for the best position and the cheapest shop. An empty one was found in No. 16, Market Street, Barnsley, and the owner, the late Mr. Edwin Kay, who was then in business as a grocer in Shambles Street, knowing the promoters, let them the shop at £14 per year. The available funds for the purchase of fixtures were not large, and, as the Treasurer's books show, they only cost £2 16s. The Committee also expended £2. 6s. 3d. in canisters and other shop requisites. A ton of coal, which in those days only cost 7s. 8d., was procured, and other shop requisites brought the total expenditure up to £10. 0s. 11d.

The receipts during the first two months varied from £9 10s. for the week ending March 31st to £19. 10s. for the last week in April. In May they had advanced from £22 to £24 weekly. In June the Store had so far prospered that during one week in that month close upon £33 was taken. The contributions continued to increase, and in April £14 was received in one night. In the month of September the takings reached £28 per week, whilst in one instance they are put down at £40. It will thus be seen that the Society was progressing. The first

quarter's balance sheet, which was in manuscript, is missing, but the dividend was 1s. in the pound. The balance sheet for the second quarter showed that satisfactory progress had been made in so short a time, and during a depression of trade the quarter's profit was £27. 9s. 1d., from which interest at 5 per cent on shares and 10 per cent on fixed stock was deducted. A dividend of 1s. in the pound was recommended, leaving £10. 14s. 11d. to meet any contingency. The details in the balance sheet show that the takings during the quarter reached £550. 13s. 6d., and members' contributions amounted to £48. 17s. 2d. On the credit side the wages of Salesmen, Secretary, Purchaser, Treasurer, and Auditors only amounted to £16. 15s.

Although only six months old, the Committee, which consisted of Messrs. Nelson Matthews, George Adcroft, James Kaye, B. Pinder, W. Morley, J. Wray, George Lawton, William Tinker, and Robert Steel (the two last named being Treasurer and Secretary respectively *pro tem.*), placed a note in the report to the effect that, "the shop in Market Street having become insufficient for the progress of the Society, the meeting would have to consider a removal of the Stores to the shop lately occupied by Mr. James Rodgers, at the junction of Wellington Street with New Street." The general meeting gave sanction for the removal of the Stores, although at the time there were those who considered the proposal to be a risky one. Mr. Rodgers having taken a shop on Cheapside, and having vacated the premises, the Committee took possession of them in October, 1862, at the rent of £24 per annum, and, as events showed, this was another step in the right direction, for in the report for the third quarter the Committee state that "the removal to the new Stores has been a stimulus to the Society's progress." During the quarter fifty-two members joined and ninety-five new shares had been taken up, and the receipts for the quarter increased to the extent of £340. The report also states that a new code of rules had been introduced, and the Society registered under the Act of 1862. An insurance against fire, to the amount of £300, had been made with the Royal Insurance Company. The report concluded as follows:—"There is promise of future success and usefulness, and above all it is hoped that all members will be animated by a desire to

advance the true object of Co-operation—the best means now before us of removing the evils of poverty, overwork, and social inequality.” A dividend of 1s. in the pound on members’ purchases during the quarter ending December, 1862, was paid, leaving £23. 11s. 6d. to be reserved for contingent purposes.

Having reviewed the progressive nature of the business done during the nine months, we come to take note of the first quarter of 1863, and regret to find that it was not so successful as the preceding one. This little reverse, resulting in a dividend of 9d. in the pound, only served to nerve the Committee to make greater exertions. It should be explained that trade was much depressed, so that the purchasing powers of the members were scanty; but during the first quarter of the year sixty-seven persons joined the Society, making the number of members 246. The members’ share capital is shown as £500 odd. The goods purchased during the quarter totalled £1,261. 18s. 7d., the profit for the quarter being £40. 7s. 3d.

The lessened dividend was, however, loyally received, and the members seem to have gone to work in a determined manner to retrieve the first little misfortune of the Society, for the report for the second quarter of that year states that £1,473. 8s. 2d. had been received, being £210 more than in the preceding quarter. The profits amounted to £71. 9s. 2d., and, after deductions, the amount for disposal was £62. 19s. 8d., which the Committee recommended to be distributed at the rate of 1s. 2d. in the pound on purchases; a surplus of £4. 8s. 10d. being added to the Contingent Fund. It should be stated that the first branch of the Society had during the quarter been established at Dodworth, and Mr. Nelson Matthews, who sat on the first Committee, was appointed salesman. The ups and downs of the first branch were numerous, but it was the beginning of a successful movement for establishing branches in various parts of the great South Yorkshire coalfield. The first branch Store was opened on February 21st, 1863, when the day’s takings were 8s. 3d. The total receipts for the first week were:—Sugar (on which dividends were not paid), 10s. 7½d.; other goods brought up the total to about £40. When Mr. Matthews resigned the takings were nearly £200 per week.



CENTRAL DRAPERY DEPARTMENT.



DODWORTH BRANCH.

The sixth report of the Society, for the quarter ending September, 1863, shows the progress made was most marked. The receipts amounted to £1,572. 8s., being £99 more than in the preceding quarter, and £1,022 more than was received in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. A dividend of 1s. 2d. in the pound was recommended. The number of members was 275, and the capital of the Society is stated to have been £600. Members were urged to increase their shares, so as to enable them to purchase goods direct, particularly butter from the dairies in Ireland. The Society, notwithstanding the scanty capital in the hands of the Committee, which often had to be supplemented by loans from leading shareholders before bills could be met, continued to prosper. The report for the last quarter of 1863 is a remarkable one. The history of the Society is reviewed, and hints are thrown out that in a short time members would be asked to purchase the New Street premises in Barnsley, and to find more accommodation at Dodworth, even if they had to build a Store of their own. The members numbered 307, five of whom held twenty shares, 9 ten shares each, 17 five shares each, 23 three shares each, 155 members one share each, and 98 members who had not yet completed a share each. The quarter's receipts amounted to £1,951. 6s., being £378 more than the preceding quarter, and £1,060 in advance of the quarter ending December, 1862. The dividend recommended was at the rate of 1s. in the pound. On glancing at the report for the last quarter in 1863 it is remarkable how in so short a period new life, as it were, had been infused into the promoters. Although the Society had not been established two years, they found the undertaking was meeting their expectations. The report says: "The history of your Co-operative work is instructive and admirable. The Society has progressed satisfactorily, silently but surely growing to a position. While so exulting, it is anxiously hoped that each member will do his utmost to promote its further interests and movements. Spare and invest, and if possible let your dividends remain until the capital of the Society becomes larger." The report goes on to say that it was the intention of the Committee to ask the shareholders to purchase the Wellington Street property, and to build or purchase premises at Dodworth. "Such suggestion," the Committee said, "might

be called dreamy, but having past operations, and present standing, to stimulate us let us show enterprise." Past experience has shown that their predictions were well founded, for the Society is the owner of a large number of well-built and spacious business premises in various parts of South Yorkshire, where beneficial businesses are carried on.



CENTRAL BOOT AND SHOE DEPARTMENT.



HIGHAM BRANCH.



ARDSLEY BRANCH.



GAWBER BRANCH.



WOMBELL GROCERY BRANCH.



CHAPTER VI.

The First Purchase of Property, 1864 to 1866.

THE next balance sheet reminds the shareholders that the Society was two years old, and makes known the fact that in that short period the turnover had been £10,226. It is stated 350 members had been admitted, and had subscribed £1,000. The profits made had amounted to £494, which had been paid to members in cash or added to their shares. The receipts for the quarter itself had totalled £2,043. 12s. 4d., being £92. 6s. 4d. more than was received in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. A dividend of 1s. in the pound was recommended and paid.

The next quarter's report for the end of June shows still further progress, 42 members having joined during the quarter, making 362. The receipts amounted to £2,046, being an increase on all preceding quarters. The profit made amounted to £127. 16s. 11d., from which deductions for depreciation and fixed stock leave sufficient for a dividend of 1s. 1d. in the pound on members' purchases. Further increase is reported during the quarter ending September, 1864, when the sales show an increase of £432. The profit of the quarter was £125. 14s. 2d. Thirty-eight members had been admitted during the quarter, making the number on the books 400. A dividend at the rate of 1s. 1d. in the pound was recommended. The year 1864 closed by a continuation of the prosperity. The sales again showed an increase of £337, the

goods bought amounting to £2,692. 5s. 3d., and again a dividend of 1s. in the pound was recommended. As showing the business done in 1864, it may be stated that at the close of that year there were 438 members on the books, of whom 164 had been admitted during the year, 33 only having withdrawn. The total amount received on account of shares from the commencement of the Society to the end of 1864 was £1,806. 19s. 8d., and at that time there stood to the credit of members £1,216. 12s.

The year 1864 had been a busy one for the Committee and other officials, who were just beginning to realise what business was. The old minute books contain some quaint items, all of which go to show the difficulties which had arisen and been mastered. The Committee, up to August 16th, 1864, had not only given their services gratis, but Mr. Matthews, Mr. Pinder, Mr. Hoey, and others had often lent money in order to pay bills for goods as they became due, and had to be content without any 5 per cent interest. Mr. Matthews relates an incident of the early struggles of the Society. He and Mr. Adcroft were walking to Dodworth after a Committee meeting, and, in talking over the purchasing of goods, Mr. Adcroft agreed to find paper and envelopes and write to various grocery firms for prices if Mr. Matthews would pay the postage. The bargain was struck, and at their next meeting Mr. Matthews had sevenpence to pay. In this way the Committee learned to purchase goods, and, judging by the minute books, they distributed their favours far and wide. It was, as stated, not until August, 1864, that the Committee began "to taste the sweets of office," if such they could be called. A minute under date August 16th reads: "That, in consideration of the Society being established, some acknowledgment should be paid to the Committee for their attendances, and at the next quarterly meeting the shareholders will be asked to grant 10s. per annum." Next month, "after due consideration," it was decided to recommend the general meeting to pay each Committee-man threepence per night when he attended. The payments were granted, and, according to a quaint entry in the minutes, the members were sometimes paid in postage stamps. About the same time the Committee were engaged in what for years was a difficult "bone to pick," viz., the supply of good, wholesome home-fed bacon. This subject, as

the writer knows, often bordered on the ludicrous, yet it showed the wonderful perseverance and care given to the subject by men who had to provide their own bacon out of an allowance of threepence per night for sitting several hours one or two nights per week. A reminder of what was going on is found in the following minute: "Resolved, that Mr. B. Pinder see Bellamy, the pig killer, as to the Society's cellar being suitable for curing bacon." A minute arising out of the following meeting says that, after the meeting, "all the Committee went to look at the cellar." The Committee were so determined on the subject that on January 17th, 1865, "a deputation was appointed to look at the bacon to see if the process of curing was in its proper course." Whether or not the process of curing was all right, the bacon question took another turn, for, according to the minutes, "owners of pigs were allowed to kill them and bring them to the Store to be salted, or owners were allowed to kill their own pigs and salt the hams and bacon at home." In connection with this subject it may be stated that the late Mr. George Kay on one occasion went to considerable trouble to get three pigs killed after ten o'clock at night, in order that he might "have the fry to sell" on the following Friday morning. Surely it may be said "the labourer was then worthy of his hire." These sidelights show the perseverance exhibited. In the same year a Clothing Club was established, and a youth was appointed to assist Mr. Kay at Christmas.

The first recommendation as to the purchase of property was mentioned at the quarterly meeting held on July 11th, 1864, when it was made known that the Wellington Street property occupied by the Society could be purchased for £550. The question involving the expenditure of practically one half of the capital was naturally often discussed, and there were many who feared matters were going too fast. However, an attempt to secure the property was made, for, in January, 1865, it is recorded that at a general meeting of members the offer of £500 for the property was withdrawn. After events proved that those in charge knew their business best, but the matter seems to have lain in abeyance for some months until the property was advertised to be sold by auction at the King's Head Hotel on April 19th, 1865, together with 18 other lots of land and property in Market Street and Croft End. The

dwelling-house, shop, and grounds, in all 395 square yards, occupied by the Society was purchased for £550. The Society afterwards became owners of lots 3 to 12, being weavers' cottages fronting Market Street, where the Tailoring and Furnishing Departments now stand. They also purchased what was lot 12 at the sale, a plot of building land fronting Croft End and Market Street, 206½ yards, and lot 13, 198½ yards, adjoining, with two cottages fronting down Market Street into Parkin Square, occupied by Mr. Dennis and Mr. Edward Hall, on which subsequently were erected the Hall and spacious offices and butcher's shop.

The need for increasing the share capital about 1865 was becoming a very important question. At a general meeting the matter had been discussed, but the meeting was unsuccessful, and was adjourned to allow consideration of a proposal for raising the number of shares held by each member, with a minimum holding of five shares each. The adjourned meeting of members was held in the Market Street Schoolroom on February 20th, 1865, to consider the question of raising the shares to five each member, and amending Rules 5 and 7 to meet the alteration. Mr. George Adcroft and Mr. Corless supported the motion, but an amendment that the rules remain as they were was carried, and the minute recording the fact says: "And thus ended quite futile the first meeting to consider creating more capital for the Society." The Secretary was the late Mr. George Lawton, and the Chairman the late Mr. Tinker. As the year wore on the question was before the Committee several times. At the general meeting held on July 10th following the meeting proceeded to look over the working plans for erecting the present grocer's shop in Wellington Street. The question of raising capital for purchasing and building new premises was considered, and, to make the affair as voluntary as possible, the members present agreed to increase their shares, which ran from one to five. Messrs. Hoey, Benjamin Pinder, William Wood, and four others agreed to make their shares ten each, and Mr. Lawton agreed to increase his to fifteen. Several took one, two, and three extra shares. Other additional shares were taken, and at the end of the year the capital of the Society was £1,847, compared with £1,410 in 1864. The business done increased from £9,390 in 1864 to £13,063 in 1866.



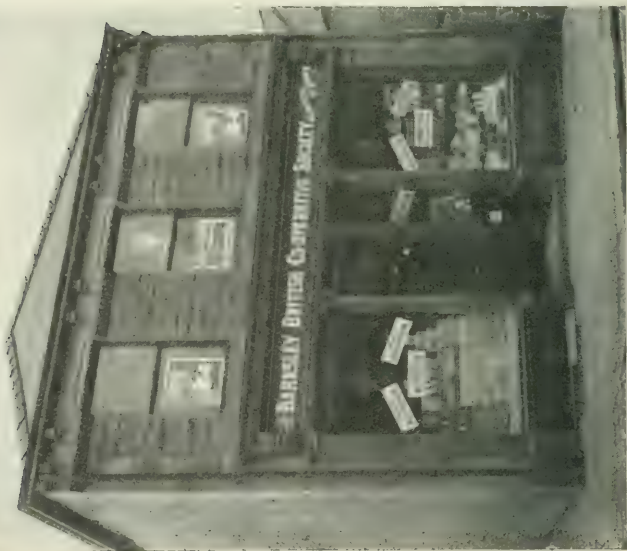
PENISTONE BRANCH.



WARREN BRANCH.



HOYLAND COMMON BRANCH.



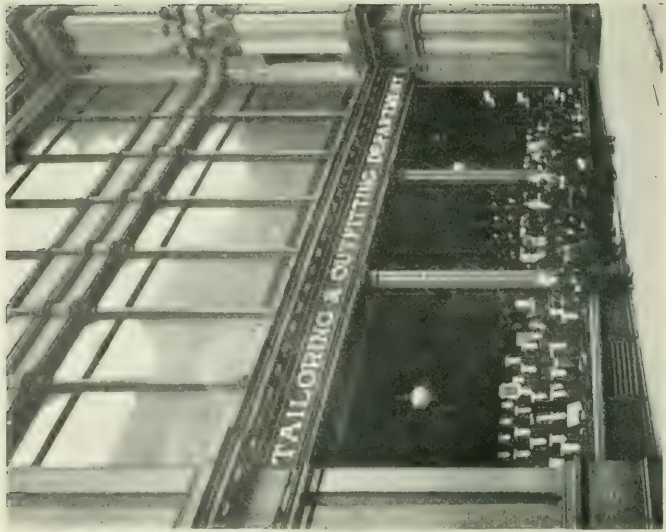
WORSBRO' DALE BRANCH.



PEEL STREET BRANCH.



RACECOMMON ROAD BRANCH.



CENTRAL TAILORING DEPARTMENT.



HOYLAND GROCERY BRANCH.



CHAPTER VII.

A Critical Period, 1867 to 1868.

THOUGH the struggles of the early workers had been many they were nobly borne; success had attended their efforts, but the year 1867 was in all probability one of the most critical periods in the history of the Society. After five years of favourable trading came the first gulf, so to speak, between the management and the members. The dividend paid during the five years had averaged close upon 1s. in the pound, but the balance sheet had to be presented for the quarter ending June, 1867, leaving but £85 for disposal, compared with £370 in the previous quarter. The report speaks of this period as one of decreased profits (although the sales were larger). This was a moment of peril for the fabric, and the results left by fluctuations in the markets would be very difficult to make clear to those men who, up to then, had shown unbounded faith in the principles of Co-operation. Opponents were jubilant at the prospective funeral of this "day dream," and naturally members were staggered; but, though there were some alarmists who left the "sinking ship," the members generally faced this position with grit; they were not at all panic-stricken, but went at the root of the trouble. The crisis was a trying one, but experienced hands were at the helm, and several men well known to the workers were prevailed upon to give their advice and steer the ship into smooth water. Amongst these the

late Mr. Benjamin Hague was induced to assist in restoring what was then looked upon as misplaced confidence, which might cause a run on the Society. An Investigation Committee, consisting of Messrs. W. Kay, Benjamin Hague, Isaac Haigh, Robert Robinson, Benjamin Clegg, James Westmorland, and William Ashworth, was elected. The newly-formed Committee at once set to work, and, by a division of labour, all the stock books and various accounts were checked, and the Committee arranged a special general meeting of the members to be held in September to hear the report of the Investigation Committee, who had created a profit after two months' working of £250. This was carried forward, and at the end of the year they were able to declare a dividend of 1s. in the pound. At the half-yearly meeting held in August, 1868, the members, however, made a radical change in the constitution of the Committee; with the exception of the Treasurer, Mr. B. Pinder, and Messrs. T. Ward and Thomas Burrows (Directors), no others were re-elected. Mr. Tinker became President, whilst Mr. George Kay was appointed Secretary in the place of Mr. George Lawton, but the withdrawal of capital by evidently panic-stricken members to the extent of £600 was a severe blow to the Society after the weary struggle for years to accumulate funds, which were then so much needed.

The demands on the Society were troublesome to the Committee, and it was resolved: "That all future payments of withdrawals required by members who hold more than five shares (£5) in the Society be paid in goods, grocery or drapery, and no withdrawals be allowed to any person unless he allows five shares to remain in his share account with the Society." It was agreed that the resolution should remain in force six months from the 3rd September, and all unpaid withdrawals of which notice had been given were bound by the resolution. Several meetings of the General Committee and of the Investigation Committee were held, and they decided to call a special general meeting of the members in the Salem Schoolroom on September 26th, 1867, when the late Mr. Benjamin Hague reported "that the cash account of the balance sheet to June 12th had been found correct; that the suspicion which had been manifest had been wrongly founded, and that there had been no dishonesty." From that

period down to the present time the Society has had one run of prosperity, sweetened, so to speak, by a few local difficulties. In addition to "clearing the air," a new system of bookkeeping was introduced, a better system of checking, and a new code of rules was printed. The old adage "after a storm comes a calm" was once more verified in regard to the Society's affairs. Early in the year the new rules were printed, and there were several changes in storekeepers. The new Store at Ardsley, opened on July 22nd, was placed in the hands of Charles Harper and his wife, two energetic Co-operators. Tea meetings were held at Ardsley, and towards the close of the year the Worsbro' Dale Store was talked about.

The year was one in which much of the injury done to the Society in 1867 was repaired, and the dividend was 1s. 1d. in the pound. There was an increase all round, the increase of members over the previous year being 237; capital, £1,046; business done, £5,042; whilst the increase of profits compared with 1866 was £968.

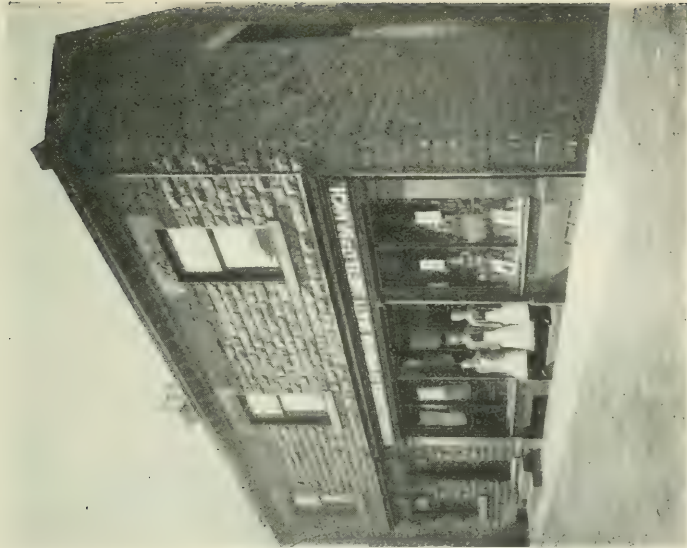




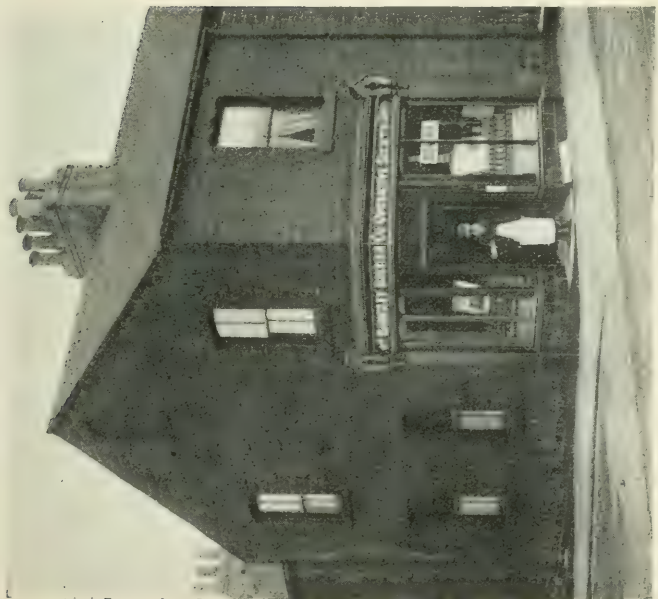
MAPPLEWELL BRANCH.



DARFIELD BRANCH.



MONK BRETTON BRANCH.



SHEFFIELD ROAD BRANCH.



HOYLE MILL BRANCH.



SILKSTONE BRANCH.



THE CORN MILL, from the Railway.



CHAPTER VIII.

The Flour Question : An Important Problem, 1869 to 1870.

THE first named year was one fraught with far-reaching results, inasmuch as it brought to a head the flour question, and set aside the long cherished idea of amalgamation with the Barnsley Corn, Flour, and Provision Company, a powerful Society with its own mill in Summer Lane, and its own shop and depôts in various parts of the town and district. For many years it was a highly prosperous concern, and, as stated elsewhere, was one of the levers in bringing about the conception of the Co-operative Society. Unlike the Society under notice, it never was an industrial undertaking; it paid on capital instead of purchases. Had it been like the Halifax and Sowerby Bridge Societies, and distributed profit on purchases, in all probability if the Society could have grown large enough there might have been some chance of amalgamation. In the year 1869 the Co-operative Society, with a large central flour store, and with branches at Wombwell, Warren, Higham, Dodworth, Ardsley, and Gawber, was taking the bulk of the Society's produce, whilst during the last few years the Co-operative Society traded with the local Society it consumed 85 per cent of the flour it ground. Unfortunately a large number of the shareholders of the Flour Society were only dividend hunters; they held the bulk of the shares, very few consumed the Society's flour, and they received the whole of the profit. Many attempts were made by those interested in both Societies to bring about an amalgamation,

but without effect. At an early conference with the representatives of the Flour Society in the Co-operative Boardroom it was hinted that £1 shares were worth 50s. each. The subject of amalgamation was discussed at the general meeting in February, 1869, when the motion was negatived. The promoters, however, called a special meeting, which was held on September 23rd in the same year, and on the motion of Mr. W. Hoey, seconded by Mr. T. Ebden, it was resolved that there be no amalgamation at present. Thus ended the negotiations for amalgamating the two Societies, with the result that the Co-operative Society built its own mill and the Flour Society died a natural death, and those who still held shares sacrificed their "little all."

The Directors had, however, another obstacle to face, trade being much depressed. The Society, however, progressed, but the need of further capital must assuredly be supplied. This led to the decision that members should hold five shares (£5), and their contributions were accepted monthly and quarterly, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest being paid on some parts of the capital. Trade began to improve, and after a rather animated struggle the Directors were empowered to erect a central Boot Shop and Store in Market Street at a cost of about £400.

The improvement in trade became most manifest in the early part of 1870, which gave a fresh impetus to the Society, and more property was acquired, eleven weavers' houses in Market Street being purchased for £1,500. The investment was quickly turned to account, and proved a cheap and valuable property. Five of the houses fronted to Market Street, and were approached by steps, having weavers' shops under them; there were also five cottages at the back. The sixth tenement in Market Street, which took in both back and front houses, was the Half Moon or "Drop Down" public-house, so called owing to the peculiar entrance. The Society allowed the licence to lapse, thus setting a precedent of abandoning licences without compensation, a principle so much talked of nowadays. The first front and back cottages were quickly converted into a flour store; the next two tenements (front and back) were altered and made a commodious home for Mr. George Kay and his family; two of the other tenements (front and back) were monopolised by the Tailoring Department; the fourth cottage fronting

Market Street was a loan office, and was afterwards converted into an earthenware shop on the ground floor, whilst the upper storey was used as a reading-room. The two remaining tenements fronting Market Street are now used as the library. It may be mentioned that one of the tenants was Jonathan Greenwood, who for some time carted the Society's goods into the country, and had as a lodger the well-known eccentric organ blower, "Tommy Wallack," a man who died with a history. For some time one of the cottages in Market Street was occupied by the late Mrs. Butcher, wife of one of the former Presidents of the Society, who officiated as caretaker of the premises and reading-room. The Committee was also much exercised with the demands of members for a branch Store at Town End. With that object in view the Committee inspected the house and premises for a long series of years occupied by the late William Hopwood, the owner of the land on which the Yorkshire Miners' Association Offices and many of the villas stand, on what was then known as the "Hollow Gates." The owner asked £30 a year for the premises, but declined to remove a staircase and passage. The shop belonging to Mr. Exley, Town End—now used as a Branch Post Office—was offered at £35 per annum, but declined, the Committee being of the opinion it was not worth more than £25. Ultimately the Committee bought the land on which the present Peel Street Store stands at 25s. per yard, and built a Store which was estimated to cost £500.

The year 1870 was, on the whole, a prosperous period; the members increased by nearly 400, the capital jumped up to £2,359, whilst the business done exceeded that of the previous year by over £6,000, and the average dividend for the year was at the rate of 1s. 3d. in the pound. It may be stated that one of the things which was "taken into serious consideration" was the establishment of a branch at Old Town, which still lies in abeyance, or is entered in what was at one time known in Barnsley as the "Unexecuted Minute Book."



WEST MELTON GROCERY BRANCH.



DARTON BRANCH.



PARK ROAD BRANCH.



HIGH GREEN BRANCH.



SWINTON GROCERY BRANCH.



SACKVILLE STREET BRANCH.



CHAPTER IX.

Increased Capital, Business, and Profit, 1871 to 1872.

BOTH these years were periods of marked prosperity in almost every department of the Society's dealings; each of the two years exceeded the preceding periods by leaps and bounds. During the first named year the average dividend was at the rate of 1s. 3d., whilst that of 1872 averaged 1s. 7d. in the pound on members' purchases.

The year 1871 was not a very eventful one. During the early part of it a Store was opened at Penistone, but was removed to the premises of the late Mr. J. Crossley, shoemaker, who acted as storekeeper. In this year the Worsbro' Dale Branch was agitated, and two weavers' cottages in Market Street, Barnsley, were altered to make a flour store. Perhaps the most important incident of the year was the resignation of the late Mr. George Kay, who had been Secretary from an early period of the Society's existence. General regret was expressed, and a numerously-signed requisition by members was presented to him asking him to reconsider his decision. A special meeting of the members was held in Salem School-room on October 23rd, 1871. There were eleven applicants, and all save Mr. George Kay, Mr. B. Evison, and Mr. Benj. Clegg were struck off the list, and on the vote being taken Mr. George Kay was re-elected by a large majority.

The year 1872 was not over eventful, but, as stated, it was very satisfactory so far as business was concerned. Branches were opened at Worsbro' Dale, Hoyland Common, and Peel

Street, Barnsley. The Store at the first named place was rented at £18 a year, on a lease of seven years, and Mr. Thomas Ward, of Barnsley, was the first salesman. The Hoyland Common Branch was taken on a five years' lease at £15 a year. A branch shop was asked for about Honeywell Street or Old Mill Lane.

One of the features of the year was the increase of payment to the Directors, whose services were paid for at 1s. per meeting.

The year also witnessed an agitation in favour of the Society commencing business in the coal trade, but the proposition was negatived at a general meeting. The question of non-purchasing members was also discussed during the year, and it was resolved "That all persons having £50 in the Society and not purchasing have 2½ per cent interest only allowed." In the month of August, after considerable negotiations, the Directors executed the purchase of the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, New Street, at the cost of £700. In connection with this property a remarkable coincidence occurred worth mentioning. The chapel, which was built in 1804, was greatly aided and to a great extent built by Mr. John Batty, who is described as a meal seller, and worked, if not owned, the mill in Peel Street, for many years carried on by Messrs. Jackson Brothers. The mill at that period was approached by a narrow cart road through Peasehill Nook or Peel Square, past the bottom of Graham's Orchard, which ended at the mill. The street was then called "Mill Street." Mr. Batty was what in those days was looked upon as a rich person; he was connected with the erection, if not with the purchase of the land from a Mr. Beckett, and was one of the first trustees and a liberal supporter of the cause.

The Society, as stated, purchased the chapel, but it was after the property had been offered by auction and withdrawn, the reserve being £850. The chapel was converted into a warehouse, and having been used as such for several years was pulled down and the present splendid building forming the Drapery Stores erected, at an estimated cost of £3,500.

The corner stone was laid by Mr. James Fairclough, President of the Society, in August, 1886. Singular to say, Mr. Fairclough was a great-grandson of Mr. Batty, one of the original members, and a prominent promoter of the building

which was pulled down to make room for the spacious drapery establishment which was reared on the site.

The coincidence is a remarkable one, for, whilst the one was engaged in providing for the spiritual needs of the community, Mr. Fairclough has for many years been devoting his life, with his colleagues, to the betterment of his fellow-creatures socially and morally in every sense of the word.

It may be interesting to state that the half-yearly meeting for the quarter ending July, 1874, was held in the chapel or warehouse. The dividend declared was 1s. 9d. in the pound to members, and 10d. in the pound to non-members. The receipts over the counter amounted to £64,069, being an increase of over £12,500 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. The profit for the half year amounted to £6,224.





CHAPTER X.

Further Prosperity. More Stores Opened, 1873 to 1877.

THESE five years proved the truth of the old adage "Nothing succeeds like success," for year followed year with progress on every hand. Those in charge were unceasing in their efforts, and extensions followed each other with remarkable rapidity and without any counteracting influences; all was as happy as the proverbial marriage bell. The rapid growth of capital led to extended investments, and in 1873 Stores were opened at Hoyland and Mapplewell. The members were able in 1874 to purchase clothing and woollens at their own Store, and in the same year (1874) it is noteworthy that Mr. Benjamin Hague, whose services are referred to later, was first described as holding the joint offices of President and General Manager. The business of the Society was increasing so fast in Barnsley particularly that it was found necessary to establish Stores in Racecommon Road and Sheffield Road (1875) and Old Mill Lane (1876), and a Store was opened in the adjoining village of Monk Bretton in 1877.

These early Co-operators set a worthy example to other institutions in these days by providing facilities whereby the educational status of members might be improved, and they



MR. JAMES PEARSON.
OLD DIRECTOR.



MR. THOMAS WHITHAM.
OLD DIRECTOR.



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1876.

D. EDDLESTONE. E. FISHER. B. CLARKSON. F. BIRTLES. J. FAIRCLOUGH. W. HOEV.
GEORGE KAY, *Secretary.* BENJAMIN HAGUE, *President & General Manager.* B. PINTER.

recognised, if indirectly, that an extended knowledge would prove beneficial to the spreading of the movement. In 1875 £100 was devoted to establish a library.

An event occurred in 1876—in fact, the “rainy day” spoken of, came—the boom in the coal trade had its reaction, which fell in this year. The withdrawals showed an increase of about £2,000. “nest eggs” which would prove of much help to the thrifty miners who were now engaged in the struggle to defend their livelihood, and 227 ceased to be members, presumably not from choice but owing to other circumstances. However, this was no check to the progress of the Society. For the first time in its history the departmental profits were shown in 1877, and it is interesting for the purpose of comparison to record them. Grocery, 1s. 11d.; drapery, 2s. 1d.; boots, 2s. 3½d.; tailoring, 2s. 6d.; flour, 1s. 1d.; and pottery, 3s. in the pound.

The position at the close of the third period of five years showed the membership had doubled, the share capital was some two and half times more, with an average worth of £9 16s. 6d., or £2. 15s. more per member than in 1872, whilst the business done was nearly twice as large as five years previous, with an average purchasing power of £30. 4s. 6d. per member, or £3 per head more than five years before.

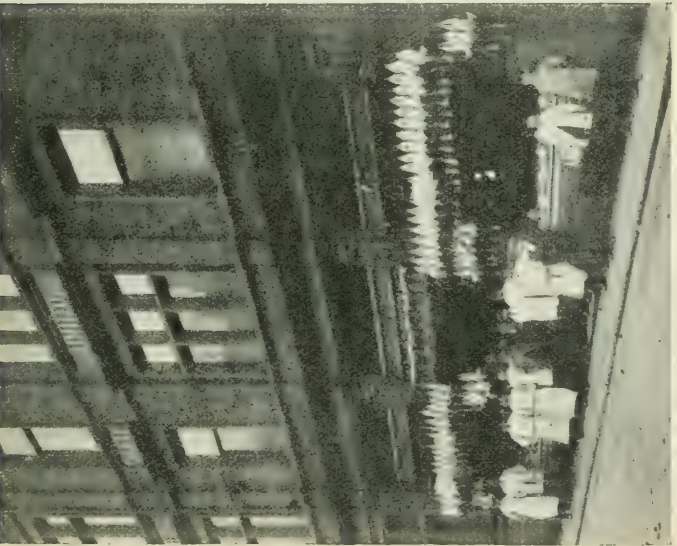




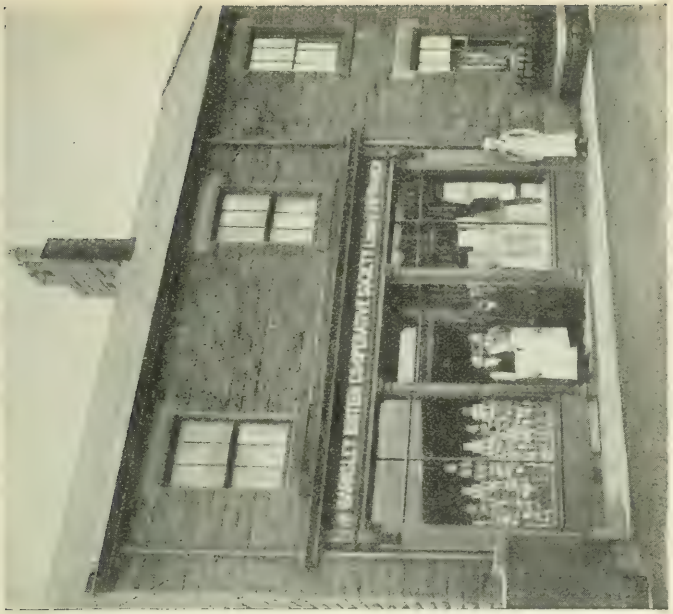
EVESCAR BRANCH.



BIRDWELL GROCERY AND BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT.



CENTRAL BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT.



HEMINGFIELD BRANCH.



CHAPELTOWN BRANCH.—GROCERY, DRAPERY, BOOTS, AND BUTCHERING DEPARTMENTS.



CHAPTER XI.

Years of varied Progress, 1878 to 1882.

THE opening years dealt with in this chapter found the Society meeting with practically its first barrier to progress. The depression in trade previously mentioned became more acute; in fact, distress had reached such dire straits that a public soup kitchen had to be provided for Barnsley, and it is gratifying to know the Society subscribed £10 towards the object. Whilst this was a period of stagnation to many private firms, the Society weathered the storm without sustaining practically any damage. The membership fell but seventy-four in the year 1878, and recovered itself in the following year. Still the amount of business done in the years 1878-9 fell off considerably, and yet, somewhat remarkable to say, better dividends were earned. However, this dull aspect soon blew over, as instanced by the gratifying announcement that during the latter part of 1878, 240 of the old members rejoined the fold, a fact which carries its own conviction.

Another pleasant feature occurred in 1878, and which viewed now, a quarter of a century later, shows the excellent foresight and concern of a body of men who endeavoured to show to their fellow-members the value of doing something to improve their lot educationally now that so much was being done for social comfort. The desire was that of setting apart 1 per cent of the profits each half year for educational purposes, and this was placed before the members at the half-yearly

meeting. The attempt was apparently ill-timed or had not been sufficiently ventilated, for it met with a hostile reception despite an eloquent and vigorous appeal by the late Mr. James Birtles, and was defeated, though five years later it became an accomplished fact.

At the end of these five years the membership was larger by practically one-half, the members were richer on the average £2 per head, and business had increased by one-third; though the average turnover, amounting roughly to £28. 12s. 6d. per member, was about 30s. less per member than in 1877. During these five years five new branches were opened at Hoyle Mill (1878), Darfield and Silkstone (1880), West Melton and Swinton (1882).

About this period a step was taken which is yet the most momentous in the Society's history. The question had long been discussed, "Shall we make our own flour?"

For years the Society had been disposing of the bulk of the output of the local Flour Society, and it was but natural that a body of men imbued with the principle of Co-operation could not long tolerate a system which was its direct opposite. In the Flour Society it was the holder of the capital who benefited, whereas in the Co-operative Society the advantage lay entirely with the consumer.

A scheme involving £15,000 was truly a great problem, and it is interesting to note that the flour mill was the first step to accomplish, if not the primary, at all events a valued principle of Co-operation—production by labour under trade union principles, and to show the feasibility of the labour problem being solved by the movement. The hugeness of the scheme as it appeared and the embarking on a new policy had its opponents, but the Committee, after investigating the subject, and seeing the success of other Societies in establishing a corn mill, were able to convince the members that the project was a sound one.

It was in December, 1877, that a special meeting of the members was held to consider the subject. Mr. James Fairclough, who left the Presidential chair a few years ago, occupied the chair, and briefly outlined the situation. Whilst the Co-operative Society were able to dispose of mill produce to the extent of £60,000 per year the only local Corn and Flour Company, who had a mill, was doing a business of

about £40,000 per year. Mr. Fairclough clearly showed how the capitalist in such an undertaking was getting an undue share. Here the Co-operative Society was doing three-fourths of the entire trade of the local Flour Company, and had they received their portion of profits in relation to their turnover the "divi." would have increased by 2d. to 3d. in the pound. Mr. Fairclough then estimated there was a prospect of making from 10 to 15 per cent profit from the mill, and Mr. George Wheelhouse, one of the present Directors, had the honour of moving a resolution which went to the point, expressed in the following terms: "That in the opinion of this meeting the time has now arrived when this Society should have a corn mill of its own, and that as soon as possible steps be taken to provide the same."

For ten or twelve years, Mr. Wheelhouse said, the matter had been discussed, and he predicted that even the past successful history of the Society was "as nothing to this great scheme." The speaker looked forward to Co-operation solving the problem of capital and labour.

Mr. Thomas Ward seconded the proposal, and evidently the "croakers," for there had been many, were finally ousted, for the proposition was carried unanimously. How the corn mill fully realised all the bright hopes and its great success will afford material for an interesting chapter.





ROYSTON BRANCH.



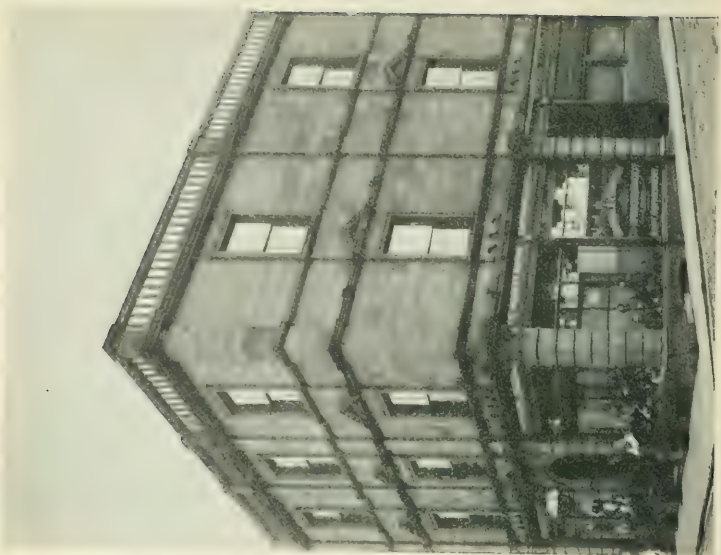
THE LIBRARY, MARKET STREET.



PARK STREET BRANCH, WOMBWELL.



BEECHFIELD BRANCH.



DRAPERY, HATS, AND BUTCHERING DEPARTMENTS,
WOMBWELL BRANCH.



NEW DRAPERY AND TAILORING DEPARTMENTS,
WOMBWELL BRANCH.



CHAPTER XII.

An Unbroken Run of Progress, 1883 to 1887.

COMING now to more recent periods, it is not necessary to deal at great length with the progress which was made for the period covered in this chapter, which, briefly stated, was unbroken. Much activity was, however, shown in the establishment of branch Stores, and in 1883 the Society had spread its operations to Darton, High Green, and Birdwell, and another Store was pitched in the town, Park Road. Incidentally it may be noted at the close of 1883, the year the Society became of age, its capital had reached six figures, and a trade of over a quarter of a million was being done. In 1884 another corner of Barnsley (Sackville Street) was provided with a branch, and in the same year co-operators at Hemingfield were able to obtain supplies in their own village.

In 1885 an ill-starred venture was entered upon, the Society becoming tenants of the Field Head Farm, Dodworth, situate within easy reach of the town. The object was to supply members with dairy produce, but after a considerable trial it was found the project was unprofitable and the concern was dropped, though with reluctance on the part of many, this being really the first disappointment in the Society's career. At this time the Society paid its "record" dividend up to date, the amount being 2s. 8d. in the pound for the half year, making an average of 2s. 7d. in the pound for the year.

The Society had entered the new commodious offices situated at the top of Market Street, which early proved of

great advantage, and in the following year (1886) the old chapel which had done duty for the grocery warehouse was demolished, and supplanted by the spacious drapery establishment which is now being added to.

Once again the Society embarked upon the butchering business, and the Market Street premises were erected, but this time the attempt was a big success. The quality of the meat was of the finest; the Society quickly made a name for itself in this department, and a turnover of £350 per week was speedily reached.

A bakery was also added to the operations of the Society in 1887, and at the same time a restaurant was established in the rooms over the grocery store in Market Street, which proved of great convenience to the country members who were busy shopping, and also to many of the employés.

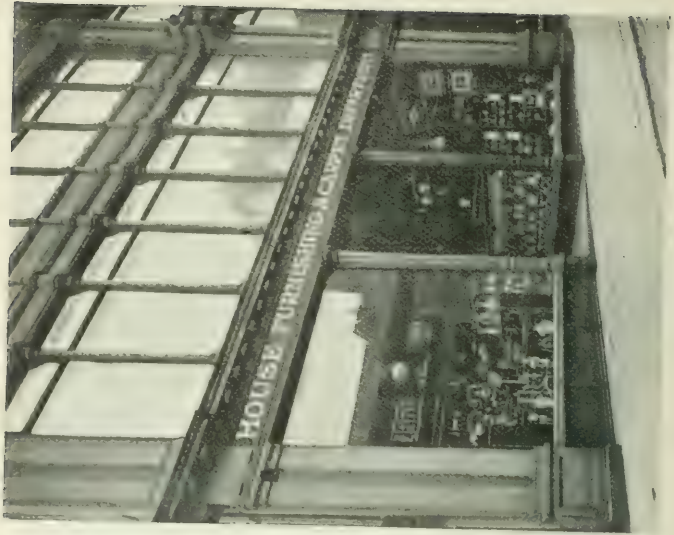
By 1887 the membership had exceeded 10,000, and the average worth of members again showed a considerable increase, now standing at £13. 9s. per member, and the business done averaged £27. 15s. per member.

The statistics in 1887 were—Members, 10,583; capital, £142,472. 17s.; turnover, £293,876. 3s. 6d.; profit, £41,138 19s. 11d.





GROCERY AND BUTCHERING DEPARTMENTS,
NEW ENGLAND BRANCH.



CENTRAL FURNISHING DEPARTMENT.



PILLEY BRANCH.



JUMP BRANCH.



PLATTS COMMON BRANCH.



MILLINERY AND BOOTS DEPT., HOYLAND BRANCH.



DONCASTER ROAD BRANCH.



CHAPTER XIII.

Success of Evening Classes, 1888 to 1892.

DURING this period the needs of the corn mill which was accomplishing such great results became a matter of consideration, but the story of bringing the mill up to date is dealt with in another part of the volume.

As years rolled on success followed success, and in 1880 the turnover had reached £7,000 per week. A marked development was made at Wombwell, which was then growing rapidly, and the experiment was made of establishing branches in other departments than grocery. Taking events in their sequence, it was in 1890 when the present system of voting by ballot for the election of officers was instituted, but this has not yet apparently removed the indifference of the bulk of the members of the Society, for evidently a serious reaction will have to occur before the members are fully stirred up. The following year the splendid and extensive buildings occupied by the Tailoring and Furnishing Departments in Market Street were opened, and new Stores were opened at Worsbro' Bridge and Jump.

In the following year the growing needs of Hoyland were recognised, and shops for boots and drapery were established, and Stores were also established at Platts Common and Cudworth. This period was remarkable for forging ahead. The membership had grown by one-half, averaging an increase of about one thousand a year. The capital of the Society was nearly double the amount of five years before, and the average worth worked out at about £18. 2s. 7d., the most remarkable

increase in the history of the Society. Business in a like degree grew, and in 1892 the turnover for the first time exceeded half a million, giving an average purchase of £34 4s. 6d. per year.

It is worthy of notice that remarkably successful work was done by the Educational Committee with regard to the evening classes, both in Barnsley and in the out district. It may be that many readers are able to bear testimony to the valuable help they have received from this source, and thus having been aided in the struggle of life. The examination results were exceedingly good—in fact, in some respects exceeding the general average of passes throughout the county. The Inspector felt justified in bestowing his meed of praise in these words:—"The teachers have done very good work in this large evening school, and great praise is due to the managers for zealously and ably seconding their efforts." This high success continued until the classes were handed over to the educational authorities, but here again is shown the foresight of the management. The Society was practically the pioneer in the district of evening classes, and it must be satisfactory to all members to think that ten years ago something was attempted and "something done" to give their young members an opportunity to get along in the world. The thoroughness of the work executed must always stand to the credit of those who first trod the path on a work which was not money-making, and is another instance of showing what working men through their combinations are capable of.

At the close of 1892 the membership had grown to 15,100; capital, £273,760. 4s. 8d.; turnover, £531,963. 15s. 11d.; and profits £78,341. 1s.





27 GROCERY AND BUTCHERY DEPARTMENT, CUDWORTH BRANCH.



MINERAL WATER FACTORY.



DRAPERY, BOOTS, AND BUTCHERING DEPTS., WEST MELTON BRANCH.



DRAPERY, BOOTS, AND BUTCHERING DEPTS., SWINTON BRANCH,



TAILORING, DRAPERY, AND BUTCHERING DEPTS., HOYLAND BRANCH



GROCERY, DRAPERY, BOOTS, AND BUTCHERING DEPTS.,
'HEMSWORTH BRANCH.



BOLTON-ON-DEARNE BRANCH.



CARLTON BRANCH.



CHAPTER XIV.

The Great Miners' Lock-out. £67,000 Withdrawn from the Society. 1893.

NO history of the Society would be complete without an extended notice of the never-to-be-forgotten four months' miners' dispute in 1893. So keen a struggle between capital and labour was probably never known in the history of this country, and perhaps no Society rendered more momentous assistance or was so thoroughly prepared to meet the large demands upon its funds. In all probability no test as to the status of the Society could have been, on the whole, more beneficially applied; no amount of advertising or of speechmaking could have provided such an object lesson to the district as that presented by the ready way in which all claims on the Society were met. The sad events of the struggle, coupled with the way the Society met the extraordinary demands made upon it, will be handed down from one generation to another. On the 29th of July, 1893, the pulley wheels not only of South Yorkshire, but throughout the Federation area, ceased to move, and most of the miners stopped work. The duration of the struggle was in all probability never dreamt of, but the members of the Yorkshire Miners' Association agreed to draw no strike pay for the first fortnight, no doubt anticipating by that time the lock-out would be on the wane; unfortunately, this was not so, and after five weeks'

duration the struggle became keener. Some five or six million tons of coal which would have been raised in the Federation area remained in the pits; prices increased rapidly, and Durham and Northumberland worked their pits to the fullest extent. The strike had a most disastrous effect on the South Yorkshire coke trade, as many of the Derbyshire and North Lincolnshire furnaces, so largely fed by local fuel, were damped down.

The men, during the first five or six weeks of the struggle, behaved well, but afterwards proceedings of a regrettable character took place, despite the appeals of their officials not to break the law. On the evening of September 4th a disturbance broke out in Barnsley, several men suspected of filling coal at Barrow Colliery being hooted, and the same night and next day windows were broken, with the result that tradesmen's places of business were partly boarded up. On September 5th and 6th the Wombwell district was in a state of great excitement, a mass meeting being held and resolutions passed in favour of all men being drawn out of the pits and the filling of coal stacked at the collieries discontinued. The same day the Hoyland Silkstone and Rockingham Collieries were attacked, and a good deal of damage was done. The Barrow, Wharnccliffe Silkstone, Tankersley and Thorncliffe, as well as Earl Fitzwilliam's pits, were threatened, and contingents of police were drafted into the district. The Wath Main Colliery was the scene of sad devastation. A detachment of the 6th Dragoons from York were stationed in Barnsley, and extra police were drafted into the town. During the tenth week of the struggle a number of pits were thrown open for men who chose to resume work at the old rate of wages, and several small collieries were re-started and supplied local coal. As the sad struggle wore on various attempts were made to settle the dispute, but without effect, until the sixteenth week, when the action of the Government, with Lord Rosebery as mediator, brought the sad struggle to a close, and a Board of Conciliation was appointed. The men resumed work at the old rate of wages, and since that period coal wars on a gigantic scale have happily been unknown. It may be questioned by some whether the above *résumé* of the struggle was needed, but it should be remembered that the Society is so largely dependent upon the mining community that the descendants of the present



CENTRAL FLOUR, FISH, AND GAME DEPARTMENTS.



RYHILL BRANCH.



GREAT HOUGHTON BRANCH.



ROMAN TERRACE BRANCH.

generation will all the better realise what their forefathers fought for. When it is stated that the Miners' Federation funds, amounting to £167,000, were exhausted in the struggle, that the members of the Society withdrew over £67,000 of their savings—they were never sent empty away—in order to fight the battle, no apology is needed for a lengthy reference.

Looking back, it can now be seen how the miners fought heroically a four months' battle for what they termed a "living wage." The coal trade after a period of activity was, as the owners said, again at its ebb, and they sought to secure from the miners a large reduction in wages, but the men stood on a new principle, and to many it seemed an impossible one. They demanded that their livelihood must not be the victim of the manipulation of the markets, that they were entitled to a reasonable day's wage, and below a *certain limit* it was not possible to go. The recollection of this weary struggle will awaken many painful thoughts; and the endurance of families can never be forgotten. But what has this to do with the Society? The proportion of mining workers to the membership must be a great one, and, thanks to the existence of the Society, the suffering and sacrifice endured was mitigated in thousands of cases. The miner is not as black as he is painted, though often spoken of as a class of men as "improvident and thriftless." Thousands of men had learnt the value of saving money for emergency, and, even with little in the way of subscriptions, their "nest egg" had nicely accumulated. The men, it will be remembered, evidently knew the enormity of the struggle, having decided that for the first fortnight they would live on their own resources. The Co-operators could do so with complacency, and in hundreds of cases the period was spent at the seaside, thanks to the "divi."

To what extent the Society was able to render help, of course, cannot be accurately ascertained, but the balance sheet and minute book for that period reveal some striking figures. The struggle practically commenced in August, and, as stated, the Yorkshire miners decided to forego strike pay for a fortnight. The distress grew more acute, and on the 25th September, 1893, a special meeting of the members was held in the Co-operative Hall to consider the desirability of making a special grant from the Reserve Fund to alleviate the distress. The suggestion of the Committee to grant £150 per

week for four weeks was considered by the meeting to be insufficient, and £250 per week for four weeks was voted, to include the grant of the Wholesale Society. The distress became so keen that on the 20th of October the Committee recommended another grant of £250 per week for four weeks, which was endorsed. Thus £2,000 or thereabouts was paid, and the Society also assisted local soup funds and other agencies for alleviating the distress.

During the half year July to December, which included the four months' stoppage, there was £7,500 less money paid into the share capital account, and over £21,000 more withdrawn than in the preceding half year, the sum of £67,456. 8s. which was paid out that half year being equal to one quarter of the Society's share capital. There are few bodies which could stand such a test, but it was got through without the slightest difficulty, and stamped the hall mark on the Society's security for all time. It is equally remarkable how comparatively little the Society's business suffered during such a trial, which proved so great a test to others. The decreased business done was only £35,000 in round figures, and barely 350 members had, no doubt through the force of circumstances, to sever their connection with the Society. But a few months after the strike had ceased the lost ground was recovered, and another era of progress still unbroken was entered upon.

The state of trade prior to the strike was depressed, and, as pointed out by the President (Mr. Fairclough) at the half-yearly meeting held in June, there was a turnover of £5,000 less compared with the previous half year, and £9,000 less than in the corresponding half year, whilst the withdrawals were larger than in any previous half year, which the Chairman explained was greatly due to the negotiating of mortgages. Referring to the threatened strike, the Chairman said 15,000 members held on the average £16. 10s. each in the Society, and the members had saved £141,000 in four years, which would be a grand back set to the men if they had to come out on strike. Dealing with the point as to what effect the strike was likely to have on the Society, he predicted that it would be the same as in Lancashire during the cotton famine in 1874, when they came out of it better than they went into it, because everybody had seen the value of Co-operation. They had 10,000 miners amongst their members,

or about two-thirds of their membership, and every facility would be given for the withdrawal of any amount. As is shown in the early part of the chapter, all withdrawals were readily granted and promptly paid, and therefore the unrest or panic predicted subsided, and throughout South Yorkshire the Co-operative movement seemed to spread more rapidly. After the struggle money soon flowed into the coffers of the Society; and in 1896, three years after the struggle, the capital of the Society had reached £327,864, against £253,287 in 1893, or an increase of over £74,500.

It was in 1893 that another hive of industry was reared in the Mineral Water Manufactory on the Perseverance Estate, and there seemed a big success possible in this department, the profits for the first half year being £331. 18s. The undertaking naturally could not be expected to be a big profit-making concern, and, though the results have not always been satisfactory, the excellence of the manufactures have been proved beyond question.

It was in 1893 also that another feature of the benefits to be derived from the Society was hereabouts rapidly developing, that of lending money on mortgages to members at a low rate of interest to enable them to build their own houses. New rules were adopted, and the advantages were rapidly taken hold of, and in the course of about two years about £35,000 was lent on mortgage bearing interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.





WATH BRANCH.



THURLSTONE BRANCH.



STAIRFOOT BRANCH.



THURNSCOE BRANCH.



AGNES ROAD BRANCH.



CHAPTER XV.

Steady Progress, 1894 to 1897.

THE year 1894 opened with a sluggish trade, yet the Society progressed, and material progress was made considering the ordeal through which the mining population had just passed. The receipts for the half year ending June totalled £228,194, an increase of £14,500. The share capital amounted to £241,488, and, notwithstanding the recent struggle in the coal trade, there was an increase of £12,718. The Chairman (Mr. Fairclough) at the half-yearly meeting held on August 13th said he believed at that time the bulk of the goods sold was as large as ever, but yet the turnover was many thousands of pounds less. They had more members on the books by 233 than ever they had; they had not only fetched up the members who had drawn out owing to last year's struggle, but they had improved. Illustrating how the turnover had decreased, he said: "In the half year, two and a half years ago, we turned out of the corn mill 34,099 bags, and received £72,091, whereas during that half year we turned out 34,099 bags, and received only £46,738. In the latter half of the year there was still a decrease in the receipts of £4,761, and the profit amounted to £37,223, but the share capital had again been increased to the extent of £4,586." All the departments had been fairly prosperous. The business done in the Boot and Shoe Department reached £9,227; butchering, £18,435, being an increase of £2,668;

whilst in the Tailoring and Outfitting Department the business done reached £7,000.

Until 1895 the Society, generally speaking, had so far been fortunate in retaining the valuable services of their officials. Mr. George Kay, whose services have frequently been mentioned, after a lingering illness passed away. There could be no higher opinion of his worth than that coming from those with whom he had laboured, and in the report for the half year ending December, 1895, appears the following:— “Since the issue of the last balance sheet our Mr. Kay, who has been for so long the respected Secretary of our Society, has passed away. The Directors desire to place on record the great loss the Society has sustained through Mr. Kay’s death. Holding his high office for twenty-seven years, he was greatly beloved by all who came in personal contact with him, and when the history of our Society comes to be written it will be found that he played no insignificant part in the building up of this great institution.” At a later date a tablet was placed in the Ebenezer Chapel, Barnsley, in commemoration of the late Mr. George Kay, Secretary of the Society.

The year was not fraught with any great changes. At the first half-yearly meeting the fair trade contract question was discussed, and great stress was laid on the necessity of having as much work done in the town as possible by trade union firms. A special meeting of the members was held to consider the desirability of altering the methods of election, and the adoption of voting papers. The motion for altering the rules so as to legalise the desired change was defeated, only some twenty to twenty-five voting for it, a large number being against the change.

The first quarter of the year witnessed the acceptance of the electric lighting tender and the putting down of an additional plant to supply the new departments of the Central Stores with electricity.

The year 1896 was a period of marked prosperity, considering that but three years had elapsed since 10,000 of its spending members had passed through a most trying ordeal. The half year’s receipts ending June reached £8,621 more than in the previous half year, and the share capital increased to the extent of £15,904, no less a sum than £21,489 having been subscribed during the half year. During the same period

the goods sent from the warehouse totalled £119,950, against £109,652, an increase of £10,297. The usual run of prosperity incident to the Society caused but few changes of note to take place; the ball was, however, kept rolling. A new Store was built at Worsbro' Dale, a new butcher's shop was opened at Hoyland Common, and a number of cottages were erected at Hemsworth. In 1897 the Diamond Jubilee of our much-beloved Queen Victoria was celebrated far and wide, and the Society placed on record their appreciation of the national event by increasing their subscription to the Beckett Hospital from £50 to £100, and that to the Montagu Cottage Hospital, Mexbro', from £5 to £10.

In this year the opening out of a coalfield at Bolton-on-Dearne caused a colony to spring up there, and there had been requests for a Store, which was opened in 1897, and an active business quickly grew up.

By 1897 the membership was 17,288, capital had accumulated to £348,451. 3s. 7d., turnover was £529,881. 1s. 5d., and profits £82,679. 1s. 9d.



Four Decades of the Society's Progress.

Years ending	No. of Mem- bers.	Capital.	Average per Member.	Ten Years' Business.	Ten Years' Profit.	Average Divi- dends.	Branches and Departments Opened each Decade.	Directors at the end of each Decade.
*1862	178	£ 335	£ s. d. 1 19 5	£ 1772	£ 88	s. d. 1 0	Central Grocery.	N. Matthews, Ad- croft, Kay, Pinder, Morley, Ray, Lawton, Tinker. Steel, Sec.
1871	1902	11672	6 2 8	228885	13077	1 0½	Dodworth, Drapery and Boots, Wombwell, Higham, Warren, Ardley, Gawber, Penistone.	J. Butcher, B. Hague, B. Pinder, Clarkson, G. Fairclough, Crossley, Eddlestone, Bailey, T. Whitham. Kay, Sec.
1881	6446	75807	11 15 2	1425144	156871	1 9½	Worsbro' Dale, Hoyland Com- mon, Peel St., Hoyland, Mapple- well, Tailoring, Racccommon Rd., Sheffield Rd., Old Mill Lane, Monk Bretton, Hoyle Mill, Darfield, Silk- stone, Corn Mill.	B. Hague, N. Mat- thews, Pick, Brown, Fairclough, Wright, Scholey, Birtles, Wheelhouse. G. Kay, Sec.
1891	13834	240789	17 8 1	3117704	439008	2 3½	West Melton, Swinton, Park Rd., Darton, High Green, Birdwell, Sackville St., Hemmingfield Farm, Elsacar, Butchering, Chapeltown, Restaurant, Bakery, Beechfield, Confectionery, Royston, Park St., Wombwell, Wombwell Drapery, Boots, and Tailoring, Pilley, New England, Jump, Furnishing.	Fairclough, Eddle- stone, Birtles, Wheel- house, Pick, Elliott, Haywood, Ball, Lock- wood. G. Kay, Sec.
1901	19825	474150	23 18 4	5458228	856173	2 5½	Hoyland Drapery and Boots, Platts Common, Cudworth, Mineral Water, Doncaster Road, West Melton Boots and Drapery, Swin- ton Boots and Drapery, Chapel- town Boots and Drapery, Hoyland Tailoring, Hemsworth Grocery, Drapery and Boots, Carlton, Bol- ton, Ryhill, Roman Terrace, Wath, Great Houghton, Fish and Game, Thurlstone, Stairfoot, Thurnscoe, Agnes Road.	Elliott, Eddlestone, Birtles, Wheelhouse, Pick, Wroe, Wood- head, Gillegshan, Ake- royd. C. E. Whitham, Sec.



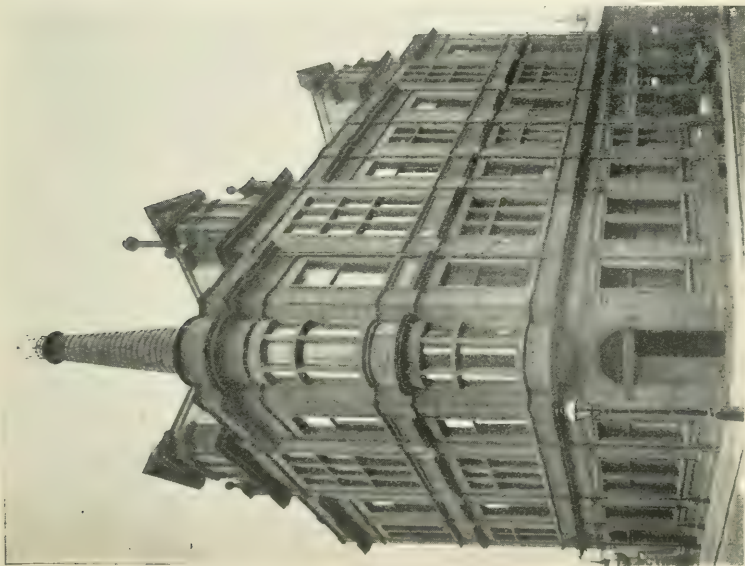
ELDON STREET NORTH BRANCH.



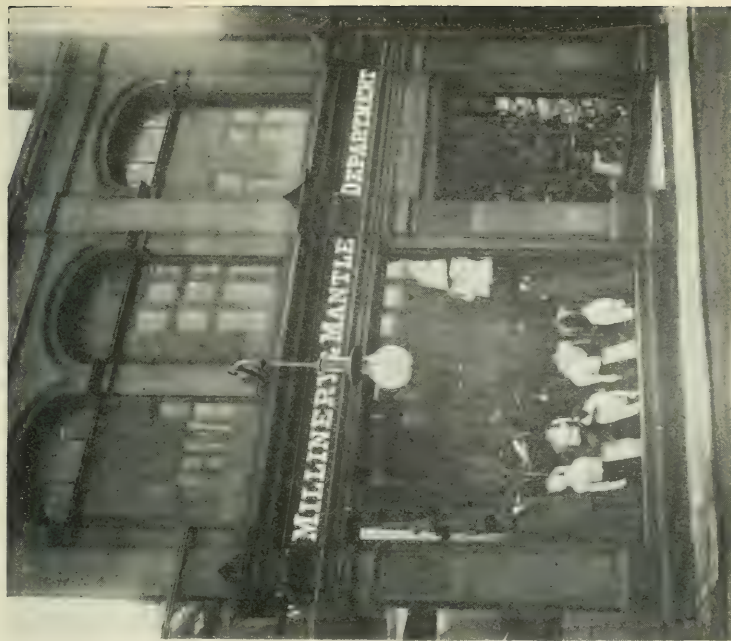
GROCERY OFFICE AND STAFF.



BARNSELY ROAD BRANCH, WOMBWELL.



THE OFFICES, HALL, READING ROOM, &c.



CENTRAL MILLINERY AND MANTLE DEPARTMENT.



CHAPTER XVI.

Changes in the Presidency, 1898 to 1902.

THE year which opens this chapter is noteworthy for an event which was recorded with mingled feelings; the President, Mr. James Fairclough, after years of service on the Directorate, resigned, having been elected to a seat on the Board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Members felt it to be an honour to Barnsley that one who had so long served the Society should be considered fit to join in the world-wide Co-operation, and they showed their appreciation of Mr. Fairclough's life work by presenting him, in all sincerity, too, with a testimonial consisting of a handsome illuminated address and gold watch and guard, with a valuable gift for Mrs. Fairclough.

Mr. Elliott, who happily still occupies the position, was chosen for the Presidential chair in succession to Mr. Fairclough. Business continued on its merry course, increasing almost on every hand, and in 1899 the fast-growing district of Ryhill was provided with a Store, whilst another shop was placed on almost the fringe of the Society's district, at Roman Terrace, Swinton. It was during the year 1900 the Mortgage Department received another impetus. For several years there had not been any extensive borrowing, but all this time the Society needed an outlet for the enormous balance which was growing at the bank; it was now over £80,000, costing 5 per cent, whilst the interest earned could not be large. The Directors found a much better bargain could be made, and one which could benefit their own members. The rate of interest was reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and in the half year ending June,

1900, nearly £9,000 was taken out on property. These favourable terms led to a great increase, whilst the Society was in such a happy state that it was able to lend £50,000 to the Local Corporation. In 1900 further extensions were made, and, in addition to opening Stores at Wath and Great Houghton and on the other side of the district at Thurlstone, property adjoining the Central Drapery Store at Barnsley was purchased. The members had frequently desired a departmental statement, and in June, 1901, this was given, which set forth the exact position of each department. It is worthy of note, at the end of 1900, whilst the share capital was fast approaching half a million, the business done was over £650,000, and the profits for the first time exceeded £100,000—truly remarkable figures.

Business had so grown at Stairfoot that in 1901 it was necessary to open another Store, and operations were begun at Thurnscoe, a village having formed into a fast-growing colony, owing to the opening of the Hickleton Main Colliery, and which should prove a very valuable acquisition to the Society.

The cold air stores were opened in this year, a short sketch of which is given subsequently.

With the close of the year 1902 the membership just exceeded 20,000, and business was growing. It is interesting to find that at this time the share capital gave an average worth, roughly, of £24 per member, whose average purchasing power was £35. 5s. per head per year, in both respects the highest average attained during the Society's history.





CHAPTER XVII.

The Society's Work of Education.

THOUGH it has been told in the form of record through these pages what the Society has been able to do for education during the forty years, it is a feature of the life of the institution that is worthy of special reference. Thirty or forty years ago education was unpopular, books scarce, and newspapers but comparatively few—in fact, education was not for the ordinary working classes. At that time, of course, libraries and other agencies existed, but they served but a privileged few, and the thought of improving the general community in an intellectual sense was beyond the *role* of practical politics. There are few young men who have not heard the sighs of regret of their fathers or elder brothers that they were denied the opportunities of improving the mind which even to-day are regarded as inadequate, and now public opinion is solid that the question of education is of paramount importance if our boasted supremacy in the commercial world is to be maintained. Viewed in this aspect, then, what do we owe to those of early times for the sacrifices made to give posterity a better chance to fight life's battle than they themselves had? If it was their duty to us, what is our duty now to the rising generation? It should ever be a brilliant gem in the history of Co-operators that they recognised they had duties other than those which benefited those of their day and generation financially, and it is gratifying to find that the Barnsley Co-operative Society ever recognised this obligation. It may seem remarkable, and yet not so, knowing the stuff the ardent Co-operator is generally made of, that even eighty years ago a small library existed in "Barebones" of Barnsley, and whilst unquestionably a minute search in the history would show the present Society was early engaged on such a task, yet it is officially recorded that in 1870, but eight years after the Society was started, and as



MR. H. WOODHEAD



MR. M. GILLEGHAN



MR. A. J. WROE,
CHAIRMAN



MR. C. R. BARHAM,
SECRETARY

soon as their financial position warranted, a reading-room was provided for the members in a room in the premises where the present library is located. This, it will be remembered, did duty for many years, and, if the accommodation was somewhat meagre, there was a plentiful supply of newspapers, magazines, &c. In the course of time extensions were needed, and a more satisfactory room was set apart over the present Central Grocery Store; this room also served as a Committee-room, and it was cleared on the nights of the Committee meetings. On the face of it this was unsatisfactory, and the next move was into the present splendid block of buildings, and the newsroom was splendidly arranged and fitted with reading stands and sloping desks, &c. The tale has been somewhat overrun. The establishment of the newsroom had caused a thirst for learning, and it was but natural that a library should soon follow. In 1875, nearly thirty years ago, when education was put into the hands of School Boards, the members granted £100 towards the establishment of a library. Like *Oliver Twist*, more was wanted by the members, and three years later (1878) it was suggested that they should grant 1 per cent of the profits (as at present) for education, and this would reach about £160 per year; but this proposal was defeated on a vote being taken.

In those days books were not so cheap, still the nucleus of a useful library was being formed, but, as previously stated, the idea was not popular and the grant was not repeated. However, the year 1885 saw the birth of a national epoch. The extended franchise or "political freedom" to the ordinary working man arrived; it was a time of "longings sublime and aspirations high." The new offices in Wellington Street had been built, and a fitting house for the library and newsroom could be provided. That famous educationalist, Mr. Dyke Acland, who was looked upon as Barnsley's future member of Parliament, came amongst the community, and gave an impetus to the cause of education. The application for the 1 per cent grant of the profits earned was renewed and granted, and it might now be said of that period that the text had been learnt—"a library is not a luxury, but a necessity." A year later (1886) the library had been built up to 2,334 volumes, and the catalogue of that time showed the selection was a judicious one. It was then housed in the new office

buildings, in a small room on the left of the landing to the hall. Further room was soon needed, and in 1888 the library was transplanted to its present home in Market Street, and at that time it is worthy of record that 1,000 volumes per week were being issued. New books were being constantly added, and nearly 4,500 books were on the shelves in 1888. About this time over 2,000 books were being sent out weekly, and the fact is then recorded that there were only two books missing, which shows the public love and care for the books. It is mere detail to state the progress made in the library, for it was constantly growing, and it is a noteworthy fact of which every Co-operator may feel proud that they had seen established their own library *for the good of the whole community* in 1890 with 5,000 volumes. Though the town of Barnsley established the free library in the Harvey Institute, it made no deterioration in the demands on the Co-operative library, for the number of volumes had to be increased to 6,000 in 1891. It is sufficient to state the fact that, notwithstanding extensive weeding of the shelves (the excluded or damaged books were sent to the hospitals or workhouses), the library up to date consists of 12,585 books: 1,500 per week are being circulated over the counter, whilst for many years now the country members have been able to enjoy the benefits of the library, and 200 volumes are sent weekly to the various branches. At very short periods the latest books are added to the shelves, and those responsible are justly proud of the excellence of the library, which to-day exceeds in numbers even that of the town itself.

Another important phase of the educational work, and, in the opinion of many, perhaps more satisfactory, was entered upon by the Committee in 1888—that of teaching instruction by the means of lectures and evening continuation schools, another aspect of the educational problem in which the Society was the local pioneer. First tackling that which nearest touched everyday life, the Committee provided a series of public lessons in sick nursing and cookery, and in the following year the young people were presented with the opportunity of attending science and evening schools, an advantage which was appreciated. So this work developed; lectures of an interesting and instructive character were provided for the elder people, and evening schools extended throughout the district. This work prospered, and in 1890 classes were also established

at Wombwell and Elsecar, and it is recorded "the percentage of passes is considerably above the average of the whole country." Whilst speaking of Barnsley Evening School, the Educational Committee of that time say, "Our night school at Barnsley is a wonder." In course of time the curriculum of these evening schools widened from the moderate but highly important three R's to geography, bookkeeping, and shorthand, the field of operations also being widened, and the cost was most moderate and the success great. However, the public authorities about this time awoke to the fact that this was useful work, and the Educational Committee, feeling "that their work had had the desired effect," handed over the schools to the various School Boards.

The Educational Committee soon set to work seeking opportunities to do good in other directions. Reading-rooms were gradually established in the country districts, and concerts were also provided for them, as well as at Barnsley. The series of lectures and concerts have always been highly successful, the hall invariably proving inadequate. The syllabuses of past years contain the cream of the lecturers of the country, and the inhabitants of Barnsley generally owe a big debt of gratitude to the Society for bringing such illustrious men as Sir Robert Ball, the astronomer; Mr. Frederick Villiers, the famous war correspondent; Mr. Carruthers Gould, of caricature fame; Dr. Henry Coward, the well-known musician; and a host of others who are known throughout the land, whilst the best known provincial musical parties have delighted crowded audiences.

At the present time reading-rooms are established at Barnsley (where a ladies' reading-room has recently been provided), Wombwell, Hoyland, Chapeltown, Swinton, Mapplewell, and West Melton.

The Committee give every encouragement to evening continuation classes, though they have ceased to promote them. Last session 53 scholarships were granted under the classes of the School Board, the subjects including French, German, shorthand, bookkeeping, nursing, dressmaking, ambulance training, physiography, &c. At the classes held in Wath Institution 60 scholarships were granted for similar subjects, and 34 were granted for carpentry, joinery, wood carving, drawing, building, &c., at the Barnsley School of

Science and Art. The Committee also showed their appreciation of educational efforts by village reading-rooms and institutes in the district, giving a yearly grant of two guineas, but not to those institutions which sell intoxicating liquors.

The Committee, ever seeking some new useful sphere, have made an innovation, which has rapidly become a big success, viz., the music classes, under the excellent tuition of Mr. J. T. Biltcliffe, A.R.C.O. The Sub-Committee have been compelled to restrict the membership of those classes to 250 students, many applicants having to be refused admission. The subjects taught include theory of music, harmony, counterpoint, voice production, and singing. The students attending are spread over a wide area, the country districts being fairly well represented, members coming from Stairfoot, Elsecar, Wombwell, Darfield, Darton, Birdwell, Hemingfield, Wath, Roystone, Gawber, Monk Bretton, Ryhill, Dodworth, Haigh, Worsbro' Dale, Hoyland, Mapplewell, Carlton, Swinton, Jump, &c.

Another interesting chapter in the educational work has been the arranging for bodies of members to inspect the large concerns of the Society on the Perseverance Estate, and last year 600 members enjoyed the opportunity of making a tour of the works and gaining an insight into the extensive operations carried on in which they have an individual share.

It should be stated that, whilst all the Directors from time to time have been zealous in the cause of education, the duties of organisation have been performed for a long series of years by Mr. E. Cherry, who lately was succeeded in that position by Mr. C. R. Barham, who now discharges the duties of Secretary to the Committee, and the members of the present Committee are Messrs. A. J. Wroe (Chairman), M. Gilleghan, and H. Woodhead.

Co-operators generally have long since learnt the value of education to the cause, and it is gratifying to know the efforts of this long period have not been in vain. The harvest will be reaped maybe in the coming army of Co-operators, but of the work at least it may be fittingly said, in the lines of Thomson—

“ Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe the enlivening spirit, and to fix
The generous purpose in the glowing breast.”



THE MILL MANAGER AND OFFICE STAFF.

CORN MILL.



CHAPTER XVIII.

The Corn Mill.

What it has done and is doing.

AS stated earlier on, the great share which the corn mill has occupied in connection with the growth of the Society compels room being found for a more detailed account. Its formation and early operations have been dealt with already, and during the last ten years great headway has been made. On the completion of ten years' working (1890) of the corn mill the Directors quite worthily allotted a place in the balance sheet to tell the remarkable story of progress which had been accomplished in corn milling. It is the story of success multiplied by success, and never a set back, an achievement upon which they might with pardon ask "have we not reason to rejoice, and say that in our corn mill we have a veritable gold mine?" After expressing satisfaction at the realisation of their anticipations for the success of such a gigantic undertaking, the Directors explain how the mill is conducted entirely on independent lines; in other words, it has to sell its produce, as any other private miller would, at manufacturers' prices, and thus make a profit of its own, in addition to the profit earned by the shops, which retail flour at so much per stone. The reader will readily see the importance of this; each section of the concern must stand or fall on its own operations. Without dealing with a mass

of figures the financial results may be shown in as comprehensive a form as possible. The cost of the buildings, machinery, and distributive equipment up to 1888 had reached £28,000 odd. In that year a new roller plant supplanted the old stone process, and this cost £5,659. 13s. 4d., bringing the total to £33,719. 7s. 11d. Now look at the picture. Out of the profits (net profits, mark) £13,707. 1s. 4d. had been deducted for depreciating the mill, £11,285. 0s. 4d. had been also deducted for interest on the capital expended, and there was still available from the profit £30,790. 3s. 11d.

By the aid of a little addition the total profits earned during the ten years is found to be £42,075. 3s. 11d., or over £8,000 more than the amount expended on the concern. These figures are truly remarkable, and read like a fairy tale. The success was the result of commendable enterprise on the part of the Directors. But eight years after installing the mill plant it was found they were not up to date, the new system of roller plant, which made a superior article and of better colour, having been extensively adopted. The members generally also saw the merits of a forward policy, and, though £11,000 odd was spent in plant but a comparatively few years ago, they agreed with the advice tendered, and the large sum as stated was further spent. The result was that the new expenditure was earned in about two years. The eighteen months prior to the roller plant being put in yielded a profit of nearly £1,400; the next year and a half, with the roller plant, nearly £6,000. Further comments would be superfluous. Suffice it to say any proposal for bringing the mill up to date has not been opposed by the members, and the story of its progress is unbroken. The quality of the flour has never deteriorated from its high standard. The last available returns show the mill made a profit of about £18,000 per year, or three times the amount it earned ten years ago.

The mill in 1901 did a business of £138,087, making a profit of about £15,000, whilst it turned out 79,193 sacks of flour and 106,888 sacks of rough meal, a total of 186,081 sacks. The total expenditure on the buildings to the end of June, 1902, was £19,344. 13s. 2d., which has been reduced by depreciation to £12,737. 7s. 8d. The plant and fixed stock has cost up to June, 1902, £26,676. 2s. 3d., and the depreciation has amounted to £19,917. 9s. 3d., leaving the present cost at

£6,758. 13s., or a total of £19,596. 0s. 8d., considerably less than one half the original expenditure after a little over twenty years. It should be mentioned that the Society's mill is now the only one in operation in the district, and the quality of the flour produced is unsurpassed. The present manager is Mr. G. B. Fearnley, who has held the position since January, 1890, and the gratifying success of the undertaking says far more than any words of eulogy could of his capabilities as the head of this concern.





CHAPTER XIX.

Perseverance Estate.

THERE are no doubt large numbers of members who have never visited this Estate which now presents such an animated picture of industry. Under these circumstances some short description of the principal departments should find a place in these pages.

CORN MILL.

The Corn Mill buildings occupy a considerable proportion of the Perseverance Estate, being the first portion of the land to be acquired. It was bought from the late Mr. Bustard in 1878, the price being £1,000. As the Society developed it was natural the industries of the Society should be concentrated, and the remainder of the estate was acquired, and now forms a beehive of industry. The estate is located between Summer Lane Station on the north side and Dodworth Road, with its many outlets, on the south side.

The original mill buildings, as previously stated, were completed in 1880, but considerable additions have been made to the original buildings during these score years, and to-day the block comprises the mill proper, the wheat cleaning and screening departments, warehouse, stables, and offices. The importance of a railway siding to the mill is apparent for the delivery of grain. The main building, which comprises six floors, is divided in three portions, the divisions being separated by party walls, with the object in the case of fire of preventing the spread of an outbreak over the entire premises. The destruction of the mill would be a grave matter for the Society, and it is but obvious that all the precaution possible should be taken to prevent damage by fire. This has been



MR. ARMITAGE,
MINERAL WATER MANAGER



MR. J. H. TAYLOR,
DRAPERY MANAGER



MR. R. P. WALLER,
TAILORING MANAGER



MR. R. GAGE,
BAKERY MANAGER



MR. G. B. FEARNLEY,
MILL MANAGER



MR. J. H. TAYLOR,
BUTCHERING MANAGER



MR. J. A. GANDY,
GROCERY MANAGER



MR. WM. RELVE,
BOOTS MANAGER



MR. I. DUFF,
FURNISHING MANAGER



MR. LUTHER,
FISH AND GAME MANAGER



MR. ATHA,
RESTAURANT MANAGER

MANAGERS.

done by the installation of "sprinklers," and in the case of an outbreak these are brought into automatic action. This arrangement is connected with the town's mains, but in the event of this supply failing a tank containing 6,000 gallons is available. This is placed on the large tower, which had to be specially erected, and forms such a conspicuous figure to the eye, and can easily be seen from many parts of the town.

There are also fire plugs fixed in the mill yard, with an adequate provision of hose pipes, &c., so that every provision has been made to deal with any outbreak, and incidentally it may be remarked that all this expenditure has led to a considerable reduction in the cost of insurance. Now dealing with the interior arrangements, the whole of the plant is driven by a horizontal condensing engine of the tandem type, indicated to 400 horse power, which, however, for present purposes is more than adequate for the work. Two Lancashire boilers raise the steam required for the engine, the water supply being obtained from a reservoir on the estate which is fed by the Whinney Nook Dyke, which runs near by. In the event of any shortage in what must necessarily be a fluctuating supply, the town's mains may be resorted to. Engineering skill here again accomplishes economy in the fixing of an ingenious arrangement for cooling the condensed water on its return to the reservoir, and by this treatment a saving in fuel is effected.

The machinery having been started, so to speak, the first operation of milling proper is the receipt of the grain, and the sacks are hoisted from the railway trucks in the Great Central Railway siding to the large elevators which carry the wheat to the various receiving "silos" and "bins," and so complete are the arrangements that the grain is carried along by a series of stages and through a process of automatic arrangements until it arrives the finished product into the sack. The inventor, the reader will comprehend, has done a wonderful work, but he has yet to bring a device to perform the simple yet necessary operation of tying the string around the mouth of the sack. The process would require much explanation of a technical character before it could be fully grasped by the outsider, but it may be stated the best known system, and it is certainly an elaborate one, of machinery for cleaning the wheat and extracting all foreign matter from the grain is in

operation, and does its duty well, before the grain passes into the initial stage of being converted into flour.

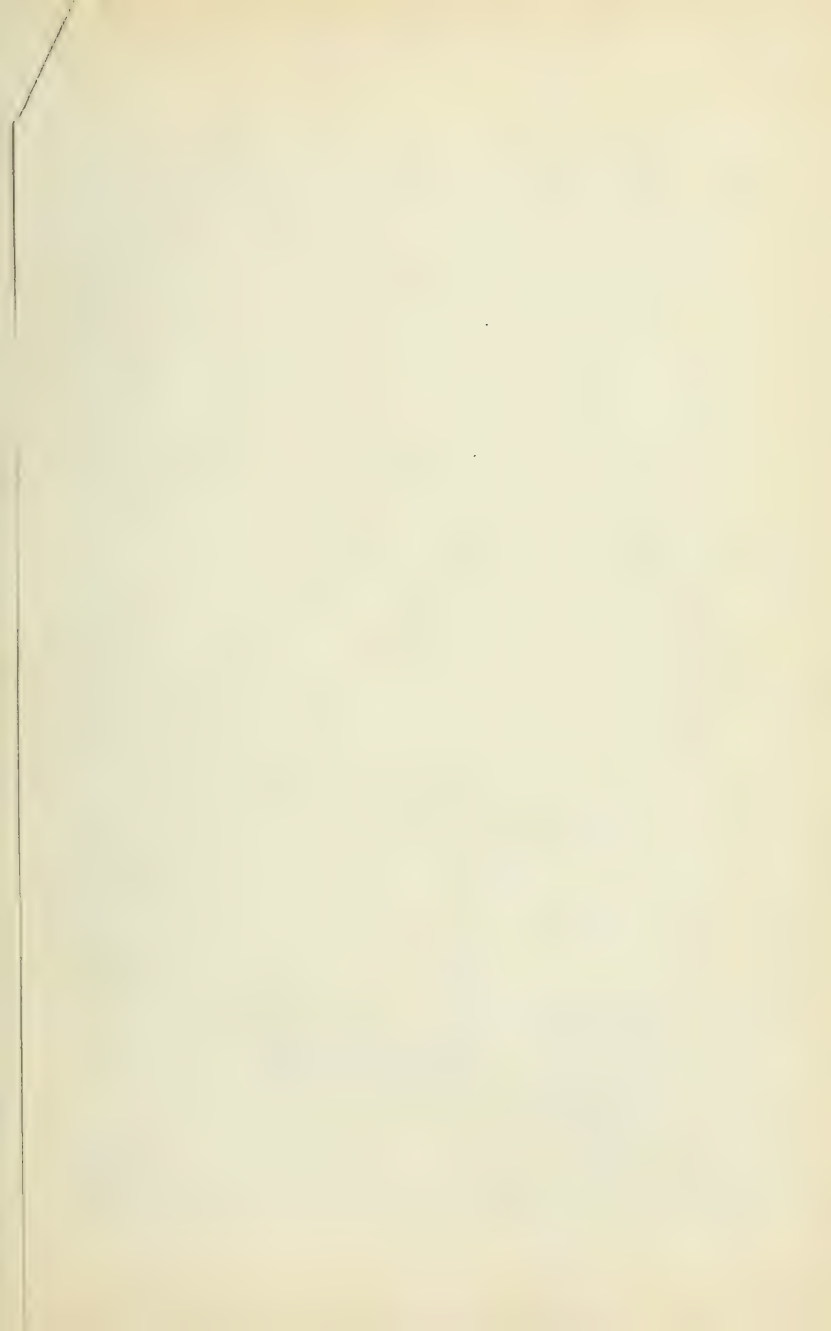
As already stated, the mill was originally fitted with the now generally discarded stones, and the policy of converting the plant into one of the roller principle has proved so successful that there will be no hesitation in the future in keeping abreast with the latest improvements. The change was made in 1888, and Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner, of Ipswich, installed the plant, which is capable of producing about 14 sacks of finished flour per hour, and four millstones which are still retained are engaged in the production of feeding meals, &c. As in other branches of industry, the inventor continually brings to light improvements in milling machinery, and it is obvious that the only way to keep pace with competitors is to have all modern improvements. The Directors are alive to this point, and only recently the plant was overhauled and brought up to date.

The reader will have gathered from the fact that the mill to a great extent is automatic in its operations the staff employed will not be a large one in proportion to the trade done. In order to supply present needs the mill runs night and day (Sundays excepted), and it is very important that the staff should comprise men of every ability to devote attention to the machinery and to the examination of the grain as it passes through its various stages to conversion into flour. It may be added there is a large space available for the stocking of the flour, which is not ready for sending out immediately after its manufacture, a considerable period of storage being necessary before it is in a proper condition.

The delivery of the products of the mill is no little task, which has grown more difficult as the extent of the Society's area has grown, and possibly the flour can be manufactured in quicker time than it can be delivered. About 400 tons per week have to be delivered by road, and this is accomplished by the employment of two traction engine trains, with the recent addition of a steam motor, and about a dozen horses and waggons.

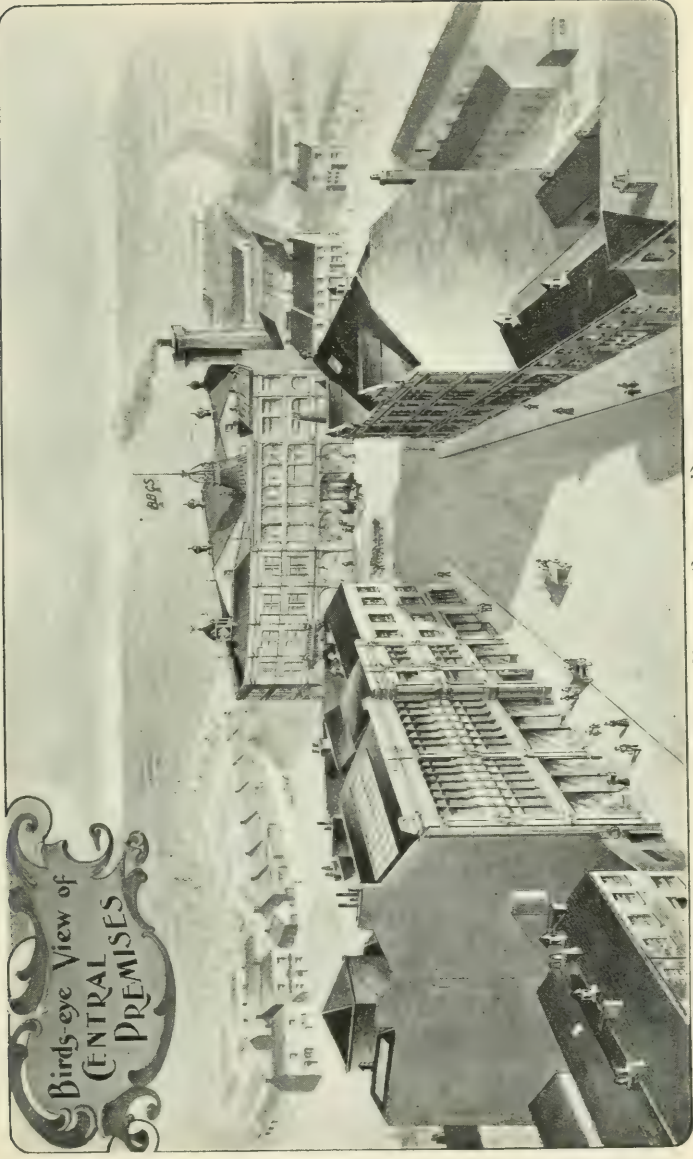
THE GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

This is naturally the largest department of the Society, and the extensive warehouse on the Perseverance Estate is



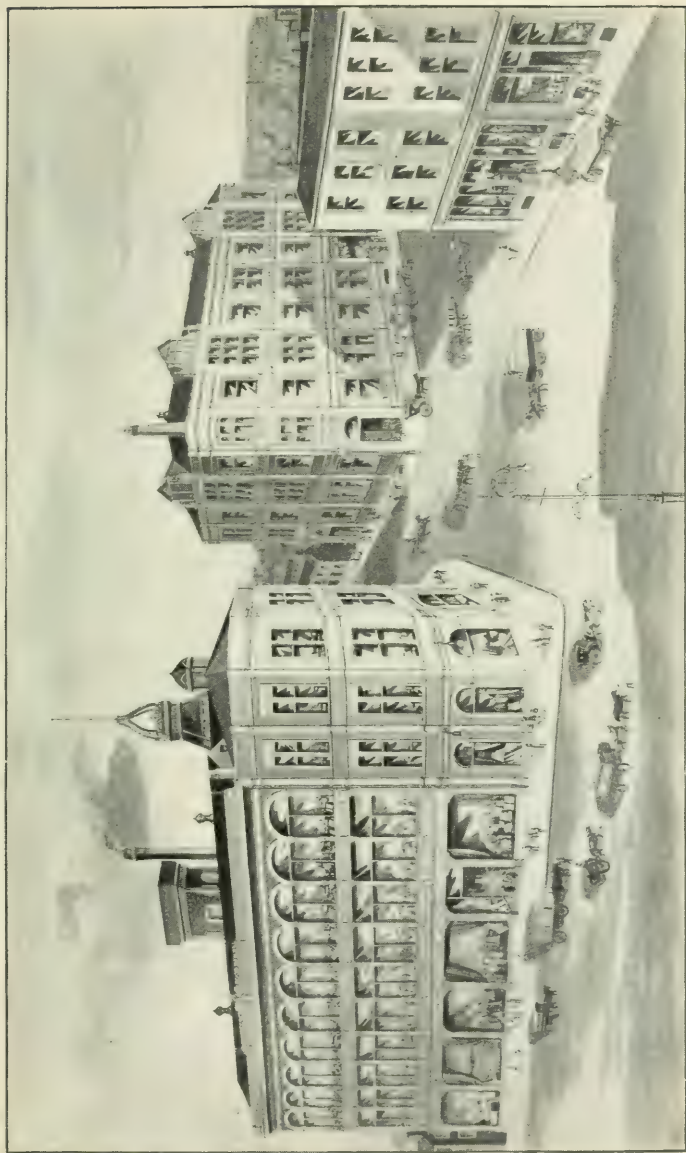


Birds-eye
view of
SUMMER LANE



Birds-eye View of
CENTRAL
PREMISES

BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF CENTRAL PREMISES.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF CENTRAL PREMISES.

always the scene of active operations, for from here over fifty branches are fed day by day. The building was erected in 1885, and comprises three storeys, whilst extensions have been made, and the house which was formerly the residence of the mill manager is now converted into offices. A large quantity of goods are delivered at the warehouse in the railway siding adjoining Summer Lane Station, and on the other side the horses and drays carry away their large weights of goods for the branch shops. The trade naturally expands as the Society develops. The staff now numbers about one hundred men, most of whom are engaged in the weighing up and packing of goods, such as sugar, tea, currants, &c. A few simple figures will give an idea of the extent of the work done.

About 50 tons of sugar, 14 tons of butter, 17 tons of soap, and about 4,300 lbs. of tea leave Summer Lane for the various shops every week, whilst during the year about four millions of eggs are required for the Society's members. The trade done now amounts to nearly £350,000 per year. There is possibly no department of the Society which is subject to keener competition than this one, and it must be satisfactory that the goods sold, which are now so largely either manufactured or purchased through Co-operative sources, have been appreciated with such eminent satisfaction, for it is not often the management have to receive any serious complaint on the score of either quality or price. During 1900 the goods sold at the branches were frequently taken for analysis, and "in every case, we (the Committee) are pleased to say, the goods were found to be pure and in strict accordance with the Food and Drugs Act."

Mr. J. A. Gandy, the genial manager of this department, completes his twenty-one years of service with the Society this year, and nothing further need be said to show Mr. Gandy's admirable capabilities in governing such a huge and responsible department. The Society also possess a large number of able managers at the branches who conduct their business smartly. In 1900 the Grocery Management appointed an independent and experienced party to make an inspection of the Stores, and he gave his verdict as follows:—

"Allow me to congratulate you on the very satisfactory manner in which the bulk of them are kept. I am sure it reflects great credit upon your Society to find you have such a fine staff of hands, and I

question if they could be produced by any other Yorkshire Society. It has been a treat to me to visit them. I have given my findings without fear or favour. I have paid special attention to those branches doing a mixed trade, and in nearly every one the drapery side is kept far above what one finds in other Societies, the stocks are so clean and windows so neatly dressed."

THE BAKERY.

The Society has established an up-to-date and thoroughly equipped bakery on the Perseverance Estate. One of the family traits of Yorkshire folk is the pride of home-made bread, and the conditions of life differ here greatly from other districts in which Co-operative bakeries do a large trade; however that may be, the establishment of the Society is well equipped for its task. The ovens are of the latest improved type, known as Mason's patent Telescope Ovens, which are 30 feet by 6 feet, and are capable of taking a large quantity of the "staff of life;" over these are Peel Ovens for pastry and smaller articles. The manner in which the commodities are prepared, whilst calling for the least amount of labour, constitutes the essence of cleanliness. The flour is stored on the upper floor, and here are generally to be seen 800 to 1,000 bags of flour. The flour is tipped into a hopper, and a mechanical contrivance prevents the slightest extraneous solid matter passing through. On the next floor are a number of troughs on wheels; these are pushed under, and the required quantity of flour is received through the hopper and added to the other essentials for bread-making. The material then is placed in the centrifugal globe, which is fixed in the ceiling of the lower floor, and this, driven by machinery, thoroughly mixes the material, and the dough comes through on to large tables and for the first time is touched by hand for the purpose of being cut into the required portions and becomes ready for the oven. To give the reader some idea of the capacity of the department, it may be stated that during the memorable coal dispute in 1893 here was baked the bread for the relief funds, and 27,000 2lb. loaves were baked in one week. There are other branches of this department. All kinds of pastry are manufactured, and the Society is able to make the choicest delicacies, and it is only fitting that, as you have been a Co-operator in that era of single blessedness, you may buy your new house through the building scheme, furnish the home at the Society's Stores, buy



THE BAKERY.

GROCERY WAREHOUSE YARD.

the wedding ring (a present given with it, too), all at the Society's Stores, and the Bakery will supply the bride's cake to make the happiness complete.

Sugar boiling and the manufacture of sweets is also carried on at the bakery, and the excellence of its products are well known. The goods are sent out daily to the branches, conveyed in smart clean vans. The present manager (Mr. R. Gage) has had charge of the department for over twelve years.

THE MINERAL WATER MANUFACTORY.

In the manufacture of aerated waters and other similar drinks the Society has been the pioneer amongst Co-operative Societies, and the factory, which stands on the Perseverance Estate, whilst not being the largest, is one of the best equipped to be found in the country. No doubt by some members this new branch of trade has always been regarded with doubt; they would strictly adhere to the policy of only trading in such products as may be termed the necessaries of life. But it is a well-known truism that when there is no push or development an institution is dying. Whilst it can hardly be contended aerated waters are a necessity in these days of improved conditions few would hesitate to dub them luxuries, so that there was every prospect for such a branch of trade amongst such a large family as the Society has become. It is, naturally, a fluctuating business. When it is hot we want something cool, and when it is cool we want something hot. It is essentially a summer trade, and, as "one swallow does not make a summer"—and the reader knows what apologies for bright, warm weather we have experienced of late years—a moment's thought will explain some of the trials which such a concern has to pass through.

The object of the writer, however, is to convey to the reader some idea of the equipment of the works. After a tour through the building, and an interesting explanation of the machinery by the able manager (Mr. T. Armitage), who has passed through every branch of the industry, it is impossible to see that anything further could be devised to advance the purity of the products or to facilitate or economise the work of production. The factory has now been at work about ten years, and the plant, whilst perhaps costly, was the

best known. The capacity of production is about 12,000 dozens of mineral waters, whilst, when the demand is at full, about 10,000 dozens of hop bitters are brewed every week.

The Society are the only brewers of hop ale and bitters—a popular non-intoxicating drink—in the town, and a considerable portion of the building is allotted to this branch, which, as already stated, is largely produced.

Amongst the aerated water drinks which are manufactured may be mentioned lemonade, ginger ale, soda water, lemon-flavoured soda, lime juice and soda, lime juice and ginger, lemon punch, orange champagne, winter punch, lithia, seltzer, and potass waters. The factory also manufactures a large number of cordials which are largely sold all over the country, and the output of temperance wines is also a prominent feature of the Society's trade. The excellence of quality which is maintained in all the drinks is generally acknowledged, and there is every prospect of this department becoming a more prominent feature in the successful branches carried on.

THE COLD AIR STORES.

One of the recent additions to the Perseverance Estate is the erection of an ice-making plant and cold air store. The Society, now dealing so extensively in perishable articles, requires for its own use in hot weather large quantities of ice and also the means of cold air storage, the latter especially applying to the Butchering Department, so the new plant has been placed contiguous to the slaughter-house. The new department is an indication of what science is doing. Of course, it is essential the cold air stores should be air-tight; the walls, doors, floor, and ceiling are packed with slag wool; the floor is made of asphalt, for which is claimed a remarkable period of durability. The mechanical arrangement by which carcasses of meat can be transferred from the slaughter-house to the cold air store is remarkable, and is accomplished by the least amount of labour.

The average member might well wonder how the Society is able to meet with success in the way of ice-making, or rather how can it be profitable. Reflecting a moment, the reader will see that ice is absolutely necessary during a hot season for the preservation of a large quantity of eatable commodities, and generally at this time there is a large demand for ice. Instead



MILL STABLES.



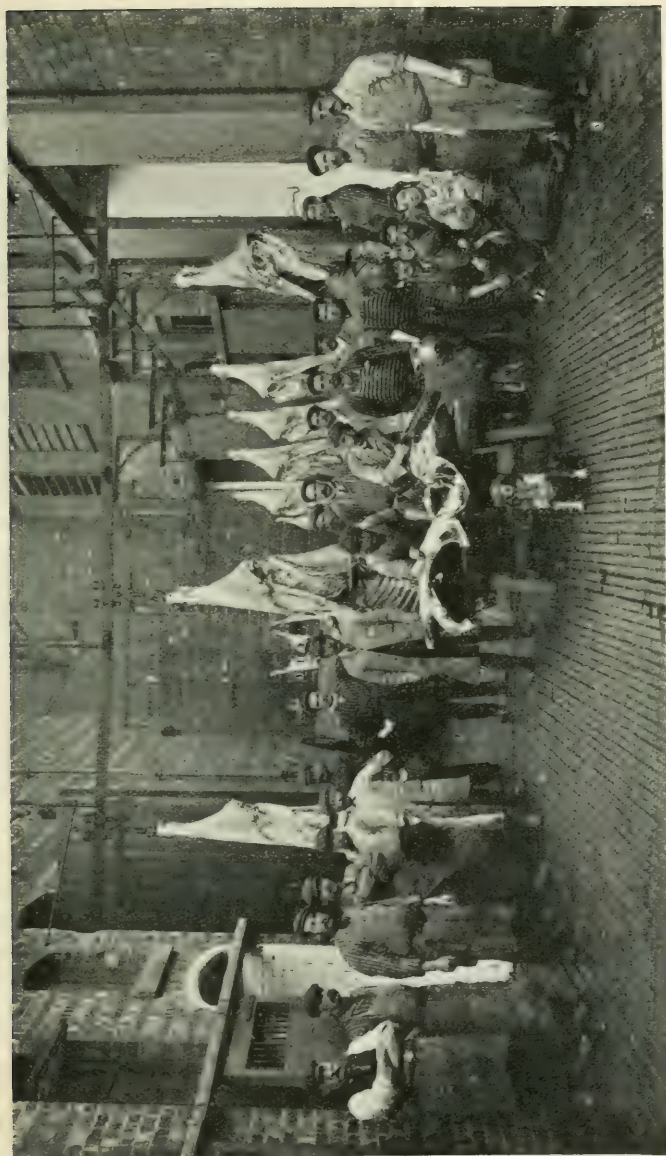
GROCERY WAREHOUSE.



CATTLE LAIRS.



THE ABATTOIR, &C.



ABATTOIR YARD.

of having to send for ice from neighbouring towns, the Directors have shown enterprise in putting down a plant to make it on the spot. The engine-house has been erected near to the grocery warehouse, and is prettily fitted inside. The walls and engine beds are tiled. Two powerful gas engines and compressors have been erected which are capable of producing ten tons of ice per day and are also used for refrigerating purposes. They also drive the dynamos for the electric lighting of the Grocery, Mill, Bakery, Mineral Water, Stables, and other premises.

BUTCHERING DEPARTMENT.

The abattoir, which is situated adjoining the roadway through Perseverance Estate, is a well-arranged building, everything being provided which tends to cleanliness and the quick discharge of the work. Machinery here again saves much manual labour, and carcasses can be carried from one part of the building to another or into the cold air store by a mechanical contrivance. In connection with this is a weighing machine which will give the weight of the smallest portion to the largest of carcasses, and the work of weighing is despatched with the utmost dexterity, twenty-seven carcasses having been weighed in half an hour. There are now thirty branches in the butchery trade, and something like fifty beasts, ninety sheep, and thirty pigs, in addition to lambs and calves, are sold every week. Mr. J. H. Taylor, an old servant of the Society, succeeded the late Mr. Langford as manager a few years ago. The department continues to do a satisfactory business, and well maintains its wide reputation for excellence of quality.





CHAPTER XX.

The Position To-day.

IN concluding this record—a stocktaking of forty years' labour—the sound and extensive position of the Society is surely such as to give satisfaction to all who have in the past and at the present time toiled to achieve such a result. The architects have been comparatively few, the builders more numerous, the helpers always whole-hearted, and the structure to-day commands admiration from workers in the Co-operative field elsewhere, and a perhaps too passive appreciation from the members. The balance sheet invariably embodies in its pages the story set forth in cold type of the remarkable growth, and, as will be seen, the Society's development during the fourth decade has been most remarkable, the expansion in every phase having been almost double. The responsibilities of management were never greater than at the present moment—evidence which is apparently convincing that the policy pursued by those in charge during recent years has achieved success.

The development has been brought about within the area over which the Society's operations have extended for a large number of years. There has been no expansion of territory, the congested state of affairs has been remedied, the gaps have now been filled in—a store here and a store there has been planted down to relieve the pressure in any particular district—the Society embraces a town of its own. To-day very probably the Society is the largest ratepayer in the

borough of Barnsley, and it does more for education in the town and district than the ratepayers of Barnsley do for their 40,000 population.

Apart from the beehive on the Perseverance Estate there are twenty branches in the town alone—an average of one Store to 2,000 population. The Society has eleven departments forming the Central Premises, which comprise Drapery, Tailoring, Furnishing, Butchering, Boots, Grocery, Millinery, Confectionery, Restaurant, Fish and Game, and Dressmaking. There are also 52 Grocery Branches, six Drapery, six Boots, two Tailoring, and 30 Butchering, making a total of 107 shops. The turnover to-day is at the rate of about £13,500 per week, or £700,000 per year, and an average of £34. 14s. per member. The average worth of share capital is about £21. 10s. per member, and the amount invested by members is rapidly advancing towards half a million pounds sterling. In 1901 the interest on share capital equalled about £1 per head, and of this amount about one-third was received from the money which had been invested in other Co-operative producing concerns and advanced on mortgage. The Society is making a princely divisible profit of over £100,000 per year for its large family. The buildings in which business is being carried on now stand in the balance sheet at about £130,000, which, considering they are being depreciated to the tune of £5,500 per year—equal to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound dividend—shows at once they are under value.

To keep the huge business going along about £70,000 is absorbed in providing a stock of goods at each place, and practically a quarter of a million pounds of the share capital is out on mortgage and earning something towards the 5 per cent which it costs in interest to the Society.





CHAPTER XXI.

The Auditors.

BARRACLOUGH.—One of the first Auditors of the Society was Mr. James Barraclough, schoolmaster at the Ardsley Church School in 1862. He and the late Mr. W. Summers were elected Auditors when the Society was established, both being early members and subscribers to the fund for its establishment. Mr. Barraclough was Auditor until the beginning of 1875, when Mr. J. H. Lupton was appointed. Mr. Barraclough was elected on the Committee in 1866, but was displaced at the end of the year.

SUMMERS.—William Summers, whose photo appears on page 147, was one of the first Auditors, along with Mr. Barraclough. He was a roper by trade, and served his time with the late Mr. Jos. Mallinson, who had the rope walk in Longman Row. Mr. Summers ultimately purchased it, and carried on business for about twenty-one years, when it passed to Mr. W. Haigh, the present occupant.

LUPTON.—The subject of this sketch, Mr. James H. Lupton, was a well-known Barnsley man, and was for many years master of the Wesleyan School, Doncaster Road. Afterwards he successfully conducted the "Market Street Academy," in the building now owned by Mr. Brady, confectioner. He afterwards removed to other premises, and carried on a private school for years. He was appointed Auditor in 1866, in the place of the late Mr. Barraclough, and held office until the end of the year, when he was superseded by Mr. W. Hoey. He



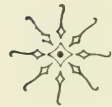
Mr. W. SUMMERS.



Mr. J. H. LUPTON.



Mr. Wm. HOEY.



Mr. JAMES BIRTLES.



Mr. ISAAC HAIGH.

—
LATE AUDITORS.

was, however, re-elected and continued in office until his death in August, 1886, and was followed by the late Mr. James Birtles. Mr. Lupton was a respected member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, a class leader, local preacher, and a hard worker of the Barnsley Temperance Society.

BIRTLES.—Like his brother, Mr. Frank Birtles, who served on the Committee for nearly thirty years, Mr. James Birtles was a Barnsley man. He joined the Society about 1870, and, although not on the Committee, he was a thorough worker, being a fluent speaker and a well-known figure in all debates and movements relating to the welfare of the members. He was elected one of the Auditors in the stead of the late Mr. Lupton in 1886, and officiated until 1888. He took an active part in the establishment of the present educational system, when he moved that £100 be set aside as a nucleus for a library and educational work. He was for some time President of the Barnsley Radical Club, and was generally one of the foremost workers during a general election. He was brought up, so to speak, at the Beevor Bobbin Works, and for years proved himself to be an efficient traveller for the firm. Towards the close of his career he was presented with a purse of gold by his political friends and other admirers as a mark of their respect.

HOEY.—Mr. Wm. Hoey was installed a member of the Society on its formation. He was one of those who met at Tinker's Temperance Hotel, and took an active part in the initial proceedings. He was chosen a member of the Committee in 1865, and often had to advance money to pay bills for goods until it could be raised. He sat on the Committee until 1867, when he was appointed one of the Auditors in the place of the late Mr. Lupton, and held the office until 1869, when Messrs. Lupton and Atkinson were elected. He was re-elected in August, 1870, in the place of the late Mr. G. W. Atkinson, and held office until February, 1874, when he was superseded by Mr. Isaac Haigh. Mr. Hoey, prior to his appointment as Registrar of the Barnsley Cemetery, had been seven years in the employ of Mr. Harvey, of Pitt Street, Barnsley, as gardener. He was appointed Registrar in September, 1861, prior to the consecration on the 6th of November of that year, and held his office until he resigned in the present year.

HAIGH.—Mr. Isaac Haigh, accountant, &c., served the Society in various ways as Auditor, a member of the Committee, &c. He was first elected on the Committee in 1866, and served for some time. In 1873 he was chosen Auditor along with the late Mr. Lupton, and served to the end of 1886. He afterwards officiated as Auditor with the late Mr. Jas. Birtles until August, 1889. He is a well-known Barnsley man. He was elected in 1887 as a Councillor for the South-West Ward, and was a member of the Council for twelve years. He is, and has been for some time, one of the Auditors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

PENLINGTON. — Mr. R. N. Penlington, the present Auditor, became a member in 1889, and was elected Auditor in February, 1890.

WILKINSON. Mr. John Wilkinson, the present Auditor, became a member of the Society in 1873, and was elected Auditor in 1889.





Mr. R. N. PENLINGTON.



Mr. JOHN WILKINSON.

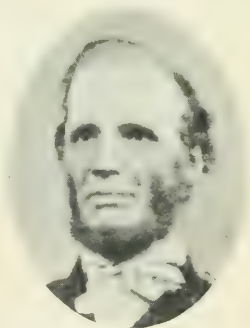
PRESENT AUDITORS.



CHAPTER XXII.

Other Prominent Workers.

BUTCHER.— John Butcher was an active citizen in Barnsley, and for many years took a public part in the affairs of the town. He was the son of the late Mr. Charles Butcher, of Thorp Hesley, and first saw the light at that place on October 31st, 1819. His father was a storekeeper for eleven years at the Thorncliffe ironworks, where Mr. Butcher learnt his trade as a moulder. He was connected with the works for fourteen years, and then went to Masbro' Ironworks. In the month of November, 1865, he found his way to Barnsley, having obtained an engagement as foreman moulder at the Wellington Street Foundry. Whilst there he took an active part in public affairs, being President of the Barnsley Working Men's Liberal Association, and afterwards a member of the School Board. Some years later he made an agreement with Mr. Hague to take over the local agency of the Leeds Building Society and other agencies. For a time he acted as Evangelist for the friends of the old Independent Chapel, Sheffield Road. He became a member of the Co-operative Society on January 20th, 1868, and was elected on the Committee in the same year. He was chosen President in the place of the late Mr. B. Pinder at the half-yearly meeting in February, 1870. He held office for



MR. JOHN BUTCHER.

three years, and resigned in 1873 in favour of the late Mr. B. Hague, having been appointed salesman at the Hoyland-Nether Branch. He died August 9th, 1875. It may be stated that on the establishment of the Peel Street Branch Mr. Butcher was one of the eighteen applicants, having for his colleagues the late John Hugh Burland, author of "Joe Broadhead," "The Tragedy of the Old Smithy," the "Annals of Barnsley," &c., and Thomas Pilkington. The latter was elected, receiving five to Mr. Butcher three votes. Mr. Burland retired from the contest.

BALL.—G. R. Ball was born August 7th, 1856, in the parish of South Hill, Cornwall. In the winter of 1872 he



Mr. G. R. BALL.

commenced working for the late Joseph Mitchell, of Swaithe Hall, at the Edmunds and Swaithe Main Collieries. After more than twenty years' service he went to work for George Blake Walker, Esq., at the Wharncliffe Silkstone Collieries, Tankersley, where he stayed just over three years. He then secured an appointment under the Shelton Iron, Steel, and Coal Co., Stoke-on-Trent, at their Deep Pit, Hanley, where he is still engaged. Although he has removed out of the district he is still a loyal supporter of some of the departments of the Society. He was elected on the Directorate on February 6th, 1888.

He was always ready to take his share in the work of the Board. Nothing pleased him better than to see the various departments smart and business-like, and the attendants prompt and obliging. He gave ungrudgingly of his best for the welfare of the Society, and expected the same from everyone else.

BIRTLES.—Although Mr. Francis Birtles resigned his seat on the Board whilst this history was being compiled (June, 1902), his long period of nearly 30 years continuously in office demands more than a passing notice. Born in Barnsley of poor but industrious parents, he experienced the



MR. JAMES FAIRCLOUGH.

early trials incident to a handloom weaver's family, and joined the Society in 1869. He was first elected on the Committee at the general meeting in 1873, and sat until the half-yearly general meeting of the Society held in the Salem Schoolroom on August 5th, 1877, when he was defeated by only three votes on a second count, having tied with George Scholey on the occasion of the first vote, when each candidate received 44 votes. On the names being again submitted, Mr. Scholey received 71 and Mr. Birtles 68 votes. The meeting was held on the eve of the opening of Miss Mc.Creery's addition to Locke Park, and was thinly attended. Mr. Birtles was, however, reinstated on the Committee at a half-yearly meeting held on August 5th, 1878, and remained a member until he resigned his seat owing to pressure of business as manager of the Bevor Bobbin Works, at the end of June, 1902. During his long term of office he took an active part in all that related to the Society, especially in connection with education, being one of the pioneers of the movement. At the time he became an agitator for the progress of education by the Society the rules did not provide for its extension. A few books and newspapers for a small reading-room held in Market Street were provided. An agitation in which he took an active part led to the adoption of the present system, with its numerous reading-rooms, lectures, concerts, and free scholarships. As stated, Mr. Birtles resigned his seat, and at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders held on August 11th, 1902, in the Public Hall, Mr. Chappell, alluding to the resignation, said that Mr. Birtles, one of the Directors, was leaving the Society after close upon thirty years' service, having worked faithfully for the building up of the Society. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded to him for his services. Mr. Birtles, in responding, said younger members would come forward and carry on the work, and he wished the Society God speed. To mark their esteem, the Directors and Managers of the Society presented him and Mrs. Birtles with a gold watch each on August 31st, 1902.

FAIRCLOUGH.—It falls to the lot of but few men to so enjoy the confidence of the members of so gigantic an undertaking as to enable him to act on a Committee twenty-nine years, and to occupy the Presidential chair sixteen continuous years. This Mr. James Fairclough did, and accomplished his task well. As is well known locally, he was the son of honest

and plodding parents, who were handloom weavers. He was born at Barnsley on April 24th, 1835, but removed to Gawber with his parents, because in that village houses with looms were obtainable. He joined the Society in 1865, and was first elected on the Committee at the half-yearly meeting held in February, 1870. He retired on account of family affliction at the half-yearly meeting in August, 1871, but was re-elected in February, 1873, and sat until the end of 1882, when he was elected President in the place of Mr. B. Hague, who up to that time had officiated as President and General Manager. Mr. Fairclough held the post until he was nominated by the Society for a seat on the Board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society in 1898, and was elected. When Mr. Fairclough was appointed Director there were 1,300 members, with a share capital of £5,400; when he resigned, to take over his new office, there were 17,452 members, and the share capital was £369,934, whilst the profits for the year in which he resigned reached £87,862. He reigned in office to see thirty-eight country and eight town branches established. During his term of office as President he took an active part in the creation of a corn mill for the Society, which has proved to be a boon to it. He was in office during the time that many of the other large undertakings were launched, and took no inconsiderable part in getting them into working order. Although acting as manager of a linen manufactory at Redbrook from 1866 to 1895, he was most regular in his attendance at the meetings of the Committee and at other meetings of the Society. The distance he walked to and from Redbrook in connection with the Society's business was very great indeed. When he resigned the Presidency the members at the half-yearly meeting held in the Public Hall on February 13th, 1899, gratefully acknowledged his long and faithful services by agreeing that a sum of 1½d. per member—about £109—should be taken from the reserve fund for the purpose of presenting him with a fitting testimonial. A Committee was appointed, and the testimonial took the shape of a beautiful illuminated address, a gold watch and albert, a purse of gold, and a silver kettle and spirit lamp to Mrs. Fairclough. The address, which set forth his membership, the time he had been President, and the growth of the Society under his Presidency, contained the following paragraph:—

“All these go to prove the business-like ability you have displayed, the keen interest you have taken in its welfare, and the amount of time and energy devoted so unsparingly and unselfishly in guiding to the building up of such a magnificent institution. We believe, as you say, it has been the work nearest your heart.”

The presentation took place at the Public Hall, when Mr. Dutson presented the illuminated address, Mr. E. Fisher the watch and guard, and Mr. F. Birtles, one of the oldest Directors, presented a cheque, being the residue of the money granted by the meeting. Mr. T. J. Pick, who has since left the town, as an old Committee-man, presented Mrs. Fairclough with the silver kettle. Mr. Fairclough, in responding, said he had been connected with the Society thirty-four years, had been in office twenty-nine years, and over twenty-one years before he advocated the building of a corn mill, which had been such an acquisition to the Society. He made known the fact that he retired from the Presidency of the Society to enable him to devote the whole of his time as a member of the Board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, of which he is still a member, and to the work of establishing Co-operative Societies in other towns. Since he retired as President of the Society he has done good work for the cause, and has visited America, Ireland, and many parts of the Continent on business connected with the Wholesale Society. It may be safely said that had he chosen his own occupation and marked out his own walks in life in all probability no occupation could have been allotted to him more congenial with his tastes or his own great aim in life.



MR. ELIJAH FISHER.

FISHER.—A colliery engine winder, a native of Thornhill, and a well-known Co-operator, Mr. Elijah Fisher has from an early period (1864) of the Society's existence been a consistent member. In 1866 a deputation of members belonging to a former Wombwell Co-operative Society agreed with the

present Society to take it over. A professional grocer's manager, named Wood, was appointed to take charge of the Store; he, however, served but a short time, when Mr. Fisher, who was then employed as engineman at the Darfield Colliery, took charge of the Store and managed it for several years, when he resigned and returned to his old employment. He was elected on the Committee in June, 1875, but was defeated at the August meeting held 1876. He was, however, re-elected at the half-yearly meeting held in August, 1879; again he was defeated at the August meeting, 1880. He lives retired, and is Secretary of the Yorkshire Steam Enginemen's Association. He is, however, still an active member and a well-known figure at the monthly and half-yearly meetings of the Society.

HAGUE. — Benjamin Hague was induced to become a shareholder by several of the old members soon after the crisis during the quarter ending June, 1867, when only £85 was found to be divisible. Mr. Hague was well known amongst the more intelligent of the working classes, having been returned as one of the members of the Local Board of Health in 1853. He was later a member of the Town Council. Mr. Hague was a native of Greasbro', near Rotherham, being born on August 18th, 1811. He came to Barnsley when nine years of age to learn the trade of weaving, and was always in touch with the weavers in their wage struggles in later years. He appears, however, to have forsaken the loom early, as he was in business in 1851 as a newsagent, stationer, and general dealer in the shop belonging to Mrs. Exley, smallware dealer, New Street. He disposed of his business and went to Dewsbury, where he was engaged in the woollen industry. Forsaking Dewsbury, he returned to Barnsley, and was agent for many years to the Leeds Permanent Building Society, in addition to which he carried on a successful Loan Society in what is now the Society's Library in Market Street. He was a director of the Barnsley Flour Society, and took an active part in the formation of the Franklin Institute, which was located for several years in the upper room of the Methodist New Connexion Schoolroom, Market Street, now used as a bakehouse by Mr. Brady, confectioner. He also took an active part in the affairs of the Barnsley Temperance Society. He was first installed as a Director of the Society in 1869, and was elected President in

1873, in the place of the late Mr. John Butcher, and a year later he became General Manager as well as President. He was succeeded as President by Mr. James Fairclough on February 5th, 1883, when Mr. Hague left the Society. He died on December 10th, 1890, aged 79 years.



Mr. JAMES IRVING.

IRVING.—James Irving, an old member of the Society, became a Director in the year 1882, and served until August, 1889. He was for many years manager for Messrs. Richardson, Tee, Rycroft, and Co., linen manufacturers, at their factory in Pitt Street, Barnsley, and was a well known and highly respected townsman. Naturally somewhat brusque and blunt in manner, though generous and straightforward, he did good

work whilst a member of the Board, displaying great zeal, energy, and tact on the Society's behalf. He died August 3rd, 1893.

LOCKWOOD.—Mr. Robert Walker Lockwood was born at Meltham in 1856. He was the son of Mr. Samuel Lockwood, who for many years was a committee-man of the Meltham Mills Co-operative Society, one of the oldest, if not the oldest Society in Yorkshire. At fifteen he was apprenticed as a pupil teacher in the Meltham British School, and in 1877 he became fully certificated as a schoolmaster. He was early imbued with Co-operative principles, and joined the Barnsley British Board of Directors, remaining on it for about five years. On his appointment as headmaster of the Park Street Board School, Wombwell, in



Mr. R. W. LOCKWOOD.

1894, by one of the conditions of his engagement he retired from the Board of Directors, being required to devote his evenings to the night schools and science classes in connection with the School Board. He has, however, retained his interest in the Society, and is as proud as anyone in its ever-increasing success.

PICK. — Mr. Thomas Joel Pick, who was manager for Messrs. Wells and Co., coke manufacturers, Worsbro' Dale, was a member of the Committee for a period of something like twenty-two years. He joined the Society in 1869, and was first elected on the Committee in February, 1879. He retained his seat until he resigned after having been nominated at the end of 1901.

Mr. Pick resigned owing to his leaving Barnsley for Coventry, where he went to reside. He was well known and highly respected, and his brother Directors and the departmental and branch Managers on his leaving the town presented him with a piano as a mark of their respect. Mr. Pick was an active worker in connection with the Baptist Church and the Barnsley Sunday School Union, having held the office of Visitation Secretary for a period of twenty years. He was the recipient of many other testimonials from various Societies with which he was connected.

WARD. Thomas Ward was a mason belonging to Dewsbury, who settled early at Barnsley, and became a member of the Society in 1866. He was elected a member of the Committee at the end of 1866, and was prominent in 1867, when a profit of only £85 being made resulted in a Committee of Inspection being appointed. He



Mr. THOMAS JOEL PICK.



Mr. THOMAS WARD.

later retired, when he became Manager of the Worsbro' Dale Store, being appointed in February, 1872. After he resigned that position he was re-elected on the Committee at the half-yearly meeting on February 5th, 1877, and served until the end of July, 1882. For a number of years he was in the employ of Messrs. Robinson and Sons, builders, and for many years he officiated as highways foreman for the Barnsley Corporation. On retiring from the latter office he was the recipient of a silver tea service, a marble timepiece, and framed photograph of himself and Mrs. Ward.





CHAPTER XXIII.

The Present Directors.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

JOHN ELLIOTT, the President, is one of the older members of the Society, having joined in 1869, when the Society was quite an infant. He was apprenticed to the Clay Cross Coal and Iron Company, and came to Wombwell on February 1st, 1869. Here he remained until he retired from business on December 31st, 1896. During this time he took a very active part in all the social and religious improvements in the town, being for many years a member of the Local Board and Urban District Council. He was also one of the founders of the Band of Hope and Sunday School Unions, and was for twenty-five years Superintendent of the Wesleyan Sunday School. He joined the Board of Directors in February, 1884, and, with the exception of six months' interval, has retained his position as Director. He has served on the Boots, Woollen, Drapery, and Finance Sub-Committees, and was elected President on the retirement of Mr. James Fairclough in 1899. He has attended the various meetings of the Society, both as Director and President, with marked regularity, and has for the past six years devoted the whole of his spare time to the interests of the Society.

CHARLES E. WHITHAM, the present Secretary, though comparatively young in years, is an old Co-operator.



Mr. JOHN ELLIOTT.



Mr. CHARLES E. WHITHAM.
(See page 161.)

Thirty-four years ago his father, Thomas Whitham, was a member of the Committee, and it was his earnest desire that Charles Edward should be employed by the Society. Through the kindness of Mr. Nelson Matthews, another old Director and one of the founders of the Society, he was engaged when only nine years of age to assist in the branch Store at Dodworth. Mr. Matthews was then the Manager, but retired from the position four years later, and was succeeded by the late Mr. Edwin Jones, whose son is the present Manager of the Dodworth shop. The subject of our sketch remained with Mr. Jones four years, and it is recorded that during the time he occupied his humble position as shop lad he discharged his duties diligently, honestly, and conscientiously. When seventeen years of age he was appointed clerk in the Central Offices, where, at that period, Mr. George Kay and his assistant, Mr. Charles Pindar, did the whole clerical work of the Society. Here he remained until the opening of the corn mill, when Mr. Pindar was transferred and took charge of the mill office. Mr. Whitham became first assistant to Mr. Kay, and not long after the present offices were occupied he was given charge of the office where the business relating to the members' share account was transacted. On the death of Mr. George Kay, the esteemed Secretary, the members were called upon to appoint a successor, and at an election by ballot in February, 1896, Mr. Whitham was elected to his present position by an overwhelming majority over his two opponents.

GEORGE WHEELHOUSE was born at Forest Moor, Knaresborough, and when only ten years of age commenced working as a "farmer's boy," which occupation he continued for three years. He then became apprenticed to the trade of a linen bleacher, and when nineteen years of age undertook a course of studies with the idea of joining the Excise department under Her Majesty's Government. For three years and a half he stuck manfully to his self-imposed task, during which time he walked no less than 7,000 miles—after finishing his ordinary daily toil—and only missed attending school on one occasion when, at a wedding, his services as a musician were called into requisition. He had to walk night after night, winter and summer, a distance of six miles, and he made it his invariable rule to be at his studies within an hour of leaving work each day. The

repeal of the duty on paper, however, altered his plans with reference to the Excise appointment, and he came to Barnsley on June 10th, 1870, and took up the position as Manager at the Greenfoot Bleach Works, which appointment he held for twenty years. On the very day that he commenced work at Greenfoot he was appointed Workhouse Master at Great Ouseburn, but, having the choice of the two, as before stated, he accepted the position at the bleach works. He is now, and has been for several years, Manager of the Redbrook Bleach Works. Mr. Wheelhouse joined the Society on coming to Barnsley, thirty-three years ago, and was elected a Director in the year 1876, at the half-yearly meeting, which was held in the Temperance Hall, Pitt Street. Since then he has continued to represent the interests of the members as a Director, and has served on most of the Sub-Committees of the Society. Mr. Wheelhouse has also served on the Town Council, representing the North Ward for three years, during which time the interests of the Society were safeguarded, and he was largely responsible for the old and narrow portion of New Street being pulled down and the present approach to the Society's premises in this street taking its place.

DANIEL EDDLESTONE has, with the exception of several intervals, been a member of the Committee for thirty years. He was born at Wilson Piece, Barnsley, noted for the production of many ardent Chartists and social reformers. He commenced work in the Darley Main Pit when only eight years of age, a collier who carried him on his back to his work being killed in an explosion there in 1849. In forty-five years he has only been employed by two firms, and has a knowledge of all positions about a colliery. He started at Craik's Colliery in March, 1861, and was in the pit when an explosion occurred in the July following, when Mr. Mark Ward, steward, and Mr. John Warhurst, deputy, unfortunately lost their lives. In 1864 he became colliers' weighman, and served also as lodge secretary for three or four years, ultimately going into the pit bottom as timekeeper and manager of the lads. A few months later he was asked to take a position as weighman for the firm. This he continued for a few years, when he was requested to become foreman at the new pit. Eventually he became surface manager of the old and the new collieries, and



MR. DANIEL EDDLESTONE.
(See page 170.)



MR. GEORGE WHEELHOUSE.
(See page 169.)



Mr. ARTHUR JOHN WROE.
(See page 176.)



Mr. HENRY WOODHEAD.
(See page 175.)

remained so until 1879, when he resigned owing to some little difference with Mr. Thomas Craik. In the following year he secured work at Wharnccliffe Woodmoor, and has served there, with the exception of one short interval, up to the present time, being now and for several years past weigh clerk. He became a member of the Society in 1871, and is still an active and devoted worker in the Co-operative cause.

HENRY WOODHEAD became a Director in February, 1896, and with the exception of one half year has continuously held his position on the Board. He was born at Birdwell, and having resided in the neighbourhood of Barnsley all his life may well be styled a "native." He commenced the battle of life when only ten years of age, working on a farm. After this he became a mole catcher under the supervision of his father. A few years later we find him working in the ironstone mines owned by Earl Fitzwilliam, and then at the ironstone mine at Rockley. At this period he was a very useful man in the Sunday School at Birdwell, as teacher and superintendent for about twenty years. In addition to the above he took great interest as a singer in the village choir, and when a harmonium was procured for the chapel he was the chosen player, and held the position till he left the village. From here he went to High Royd Colliery, where he gradually rose from trammer to collier, thence to checkweighman, securing the confidence of his fellow-workmen to such an extent that they appointed him Secretary of the Miners' Lodge and delegate at various times to the council meetings of the Yorkshire Miners' Association. Mr. Woodhead made the acquaintance of the late John Normansell, a name well known to all miners throughout South Yorkshire, they having worked together at High Royd Colliery. It is worth recording that Mr. Woodhead was present at the opening of the Miners' Offices in Barnsley in 1874, he being one of the delegates at the time. He continued his employment at High Royd until the closing of the colliery, then he secured work at Wharnccliffe Silkstone, and after being there a time was asked to take a position as deputy overman. From here he was recommended to take the post of under viewer at Barrow Colliery, eventually (in 1887) being appointed under manager at the Silkstone seam, and has retained the position up to the time of writing.

He has served on the Educational Committee during all the time of his Directorate.

ARTHUR JOHN WROE was born at Wombwell, and received what little education he got at the Wombwell National and Brampton Bierlow Schools. He commenced work soon after he became ten years of age at the Glass Bottle Works at Wombwell, and was afterwards employed in the Lamp House, Screens, &c., at the Wombwell Main Colliery, also for a brief period in the Lundhill Colliery. In 1876 he returned to Wombwell Main Colliery, and was employed in the wagon weigh, from thence to the pit hill weigh, then into the general office, where he has risen step by step to the position of cashier, a position he has held since September, 1894. He has always taken a very active interest in all good movements in the town, but more especially in Sunday School and temperance work, and for three years was a member of the Wombwell School Board. He joined the Society in 1884, and was soon after appointed Secretary to the local Committee which had the charge of the science classes conducted so successfully under the auspices of the Educational Committee of the Society. He held this appointment up to the time of becoming a member of the Board in February, 1898. He has served on the Educational Committee for several years, and on the retirement of Mr. Pick twelve months ago was appointed Chairman of the same.

MARTIN GILLEGHAN is a native of Barnsley. His early career was one of hardship, his father dying when he was only three years of age, and it was a very hard struggle indeed for the mother to maintain a home for the three children left for her to bring up. For some time she managed, by going out washing and cleaning, to provide for the needs of her young family, but an accident which happened to the youngest caused her to stay at home; and consequently he and his next younger brother were compelled, at the age of five-and-a-half and three-and-a-half years respectively, to go out into the world and beg from door to door. Unfortunately all the three children contracted whooping cough, and were taken to the Barnsley Workhouse until well again. Our subject commenced work when only seven years of age at Charles Mallinson's rope walk, Roper Street, and received the



MR. EDWARD AKEROYD.
(See page 181.)



MR. MARTIN GILLEGHAN.
(See page 176.)



Mr. SETH PEACE.
(See page 183.)



Mr. EDWIN HAYWOOD.
(See page 182.)

handsome wage of one shilling per week, his salary being gradually increased until, when turned eight years old, he received 2s. 6d. weekly. When nine he commenced as trapper boy at the Willow Bank Pit, receiving 8d. per day, and the owner—the late Richard Thorpe, Esq.—made all the boys attend an evening school at Old Town, this being the only early education obtained. When seven years of age he was taken into St. Mary's Sunday School by the late Richard Inns, Esq., afterwards to St. George's, with which place he has been connected ever since. In 1893 the teachers, scholars, and friends presented him with a beautiful walnut secretaire "as a small token of their appreciation of his hearty services always given so willingly, and a reminder of a happy work achieved in God's name."

He went to work at Swaithe Main immediately after the explosion, and in 1878 was appointed afternoon deputy, and was given full charge of a district in 1882, remaining here until the colliery was worked out. For several years he worked hard to improve himself. Long before he was married he endeavoured to secure adherents to the Co-operative cause, becoming a member himself at the time of his marriage, and he and those of his family who are old enough are to-day staunch Co-operators. He has taken a keen unbroken interest in the working of the Society, for many years attending at all meetings, and was elected on the Directorate in August, 1900. Using all available opportunities for self-improvement he has managed gradually to make for himself a position which, in his younger days, did not seem to be in store for him. However, he has lifted himself out of the humble surroundings of his early life, and now takes a keen interest in the education and improvement of the rising generation, and is at present one of the managers of St. George's Day Schools. He has served on the Mineral Water, Bakery, and other Sub-Committees, and has also been for two years a member of the Educational Committee.

EDWARD AKEROYD, one of the later acquisitions to the Board of Directors, was born at Clayton West, and was apprenticed when fourteen years of age to the boot and shoe business with the Secretary (Mr. D. Blacker) of the Scissett Co-operative Society. He came to Barnsley thirty-three years ago, and was manager for Mr. William

Fieldhouse, boot and shoe manufacturer, May Day Green, until 1874. He was employed by the Barnsley British Co-operative Society in the Boot and Shoe Department from 1874 to 1876. Unfortunately his health would not permit of his continuing an indoor occupation, consequently he commenced in the insurance business, and for twenty years he held the position of District Manager for one of the wealthiest insurance societies in the kingdom, finally retiring from business in November, 1901. He has served on the Barnsley Board of Guardians, and became a Director in February, 1901.

EDWIN HAYWOOD was born at Norton, near Askern, being the eldest son of George Haywood, farmer and butcher. While young his family removed to Billingley, and for a time he attended Darfield National School and completed his education under Mr. Edward Watson at Darfield. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed by indenture for seven years with Mr. H. Brookfield, of Elsecar, to the trade of wheelwright and joiner. In 1865 he entered the service of Earl Fitzwilliam at the Elsecar Engineering Works, and has remained there up to the present time. Mr. Haywood, who is a Churchman, and a manager of the Elsecar National School, was elected a member of Hoyland Nether School Board in May, 1891, and appointed vice-chairman; he, however, did not seek re-election, owing to his duties as a Director of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society. He was elected a Director at the half-yearly meeting in February, 1885, when the receipts of the Society were under £5,000 per week. From the first he interested himself in the movement for the establishment of an Educational Department in connection with the Society, and on its becoming an accomplished fact he was appointed the first Chairman of the Educational Committee. It was in a great measure through his labours that the library and branch reading-rooms as they now exist were established. For several years, under his able chairmanship, the science classes and evening schools were amongst the most successful in the movement. It is of interest to notice that, before the present railway accommodation existed between Barnsley and Elsecar, Mr. Haywood walked the distance—six miles—to attend the meetings of the Committee, and at the close, often after 9 p.m., had to walk home; this would occur, on an

BARNSELY BRITISH

SOCIETY LIMITED.

CO-OPERATIVE



DIRECTORS

SECRETARY

E. AKEROYD. D. EDDLESTONE. F. BIRTLES. E. HAYWOOD.
A. J. WROE. C. E. WHITHAM, *Secretary*. J. ELLIOTT, *President*. H. WOODHEAD.
M. GILLEGHAN. G. WHEELHOUSE.

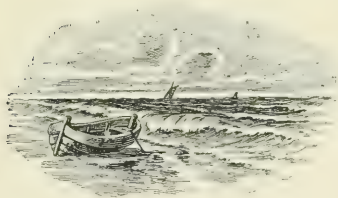
THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1902.



Mr. EMANUEL CHERRY, *Cashier.*
Educational Secretary from 1885 to 1901 inclusive,

average, three times a week. Mr. Haywood is at present a member of the Finance Committee, and on the Executive of the South Yorkshire District Co-operative Association.

SETH PEACE, the latest addition to the Directorate, was born at Shelley, near Huddersfield. His father was a manufacturer of fancy vestings, which were at that period very much in request, but when quite young the family removed to Denby Dale. At the age of fifteen he became employed by the well-known woollen merchants, Messrs. Kell and Co., Huddersfield. After spending a few years with this firm he came to Barnsley in November, 1874, securing work with his present employers, Messrs. Thomas Taylor and Sons, the widely known linen drill manufacturers, whom he represents in Yorkshire. He joined the Society May 3rd, 1879, and has been for many years a prominent Co-operator, and an aspirant for a seat on the Board for some time, securing election in August last.





CHAPTER XXIV.

Advances to Members on Property.

NO history of the Barnsley British Co-operative Society could be considered complete without some reference to the help the members have received by the advancement of capital for the purpose of enabling them to build or buy their own houses. Up to ten years ago very little had been done in this direction, the amount advanced on mortgage up to June, 1892, only totalling £940. The capital of the Society, however, was rapidly rising, and by December of the same year the amount had grown to £5,114.

The Directors decided to offer every facility to those members desirous of becoming their own landlords of obtaining the required capital at a fair interest and on easy terms of repayment. Thus did the Society do some little to solve the question of the comfortable housing of the people, many being enabled to leave houses of a more or less insanitary condition and become owners and occupiers of modern, convenient, well-built, and healthy cottages.

The rate of interest charged at this period was $4\frac{1}{6}$ per cent, and this rate of interest continued until 1899, when the members at a special meeting decided to reduce the interest to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is of interest to draw attention to the fact that under the $4\frac{1}{6}$ per cent scheme the mortgages had grown considerably; so much so that in June, 1894, the total advanced amounted to £35,898.

The balance sheet for December, 1899, called attention to the fact that the interest had been altered to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and stated that houses were for sale at Barnsley, Chapeltown,

Wombwell, Gawber, &c., and the accounts for twelve months later show that a considerable number of members were attracted by the low rate of interest and the terms of repayment, for in that six months alone £43,235 was advanced to members on freehold property. This was a greater amount than had been advanced in all the preceding years of the Society's history, and clearly proved that the step taken was the correct one. The total amount advanced up to this time, December, 1900, was £63,016. From this time forward money has been freely advanced on good security to the members, and at the end of 1901 the total reached £96,923—the additions during the half year being £22,739.

In all about £152,000 has been lent to members throughout the Society's area in sums ranging from £50 upwards. The average to each borrower works out to about £400. Though the terms of repayment in the ordinary course extend to about twenty-two years, seventy members have been enabled to clear off all their liabilities and are now the proud possessors of a free house, one which they cannot be evicted from, and consequently may be made cosy and comfortable without any fear of the landlord asking them to move on. Others by the practice of strict economy and thrift have also built or bought houses, and have the pleasure of drawing rents for the same from their friends and neighbours. None can truthfully deny that they have attained at least a share of that dignity and standing which the possession of property confers upon men and women. Now, it is quite probable that very few of these people who have thus availed themselves of the advantages held out to them would have been otherwise able to launch out into property building, but, seeing the usefulness of the benefits offered, like sensible people they did not hesitate to participate therein. Many who up to this time had only liabilities and responsibilities which they could call their own, by perseverance, self-denial, and grit were enabled to throw off the yoke of the landlord and become their own house owners.



CHAPTER XXV.

Thomas Lister.

THOMAS Lister, whose portrait appears on page 189 of this volume, though having no official connection with the Society, was a prominent and highly respected citizen of the town of Barnsley, and therefore no apology is needed for his introduction. He was born at Old Mill, on Sunday, February 11th, 1810, his parents being members of the Society of Friends, who, though of humble position, were well respected and highly esteemed by those with whom they came in contact. Thomas though he was more often called Tom—was the youngest of a family of fourteen children, and in 1821 he entered the Friends' School at Ackworth, and it is interesting to know that one of his schoolfellows was the late John Bright, who eventually became one of our greatest orators and statesmen. After leaving school he worked several years for his father, a gardener and small farmer, and when big enough he was entrusted with the charge of a horse and cart. After the election of 1832 Lord Morpeth came in contact with Thomas Lister, and, being struck with his energy and the singular genius he displayed, secured for him the appointment of postmaster for Barnsley, but as the acceptance of the position necessitated the taking of an oath, which, as a Quaker, he could *not take*, Lister stuck to his horse and cart, and another person secured the appointment. His action awakened for him and his works unusual interest, and it led to the collection and publication of Lister's poems in a volume (which, by the way, is in the Society's Library) entitled "The Rustic Wreath," this securing for its author several



Mr. THOMAS LISTER.

hundred pounds. In 1839 the position of postmaster again became vacant, and, a simple affirmation having been substituted for the oath, Mr. Lister was offered the appointment, which he accepted and retained for thirty years. He retired in 1870 on a well-earned pension, which he enjoyed for nearly eighteen years. A testimonial, comprising a purse containing £245 and the Works of Tennyson in six volumes, was handed to him on his retirement. Space does not permit of more than a passing reference to his fame as a naturalist and poet, but it must suffice to say that his notes on natural history contributed to various publications were highly prized and valued, whilst his poems and sonnets, if collected and published, would make a goodly volume. Thomas Lister died on Sunday, March 25th, 1888, and his remains were interred in the burial ground attached to the Friends' Meeting House, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley. The last lines he ever wrote appeared in the *Barnsley Chronicle* the day before his death. The title was "Greeting and Farewell to Matlock Bank," and they contain a description of the life spent at Smedley's noted Hydropathic Establishment by the visitors, he having spent some little time there just previous to his death. The lines wind up with the following:—

"And, lastly, our day is closed with devotion
To Him who all space with His majesty fills,
Dear friends! lovely scenes! I bid, with emotion,
Farewell! to the Derbyshire valleys and hills!"





CHAPTER XXVI.

Barnsley and District, Past and Present.

FOR the information of those members of the Society who are not residents of the town, or whom it is assumed are not conversant with the past history of the town and district, it has been deemed advisable to give a short narrative of its rise and progress. In doing so, there is no intention to quarrel with the ancient description, as to whether the town is "black" or "bleak." The former characterisation, which asserts itself in most of the directories and histories published in the seventeenth century, was doubtless associated with its coal mining connections, whilst the second is imposed in respect to the town being built on the slopes of two or three hills:—each, we are told, average 350 feet above the level of the sea. The members may be interested in the fact that its name appeared in the Domesday Book as "Berneslye," as well as in the statement that the parish of Silkstone (in which Barnsley is situate) was given with many other districts by William the Conqueror to Ilbert-de-Laci, one of the most powerful of his followers, who founded the Honour of Pontefract. There is, it must be owned, nothing historical to make Barnsley famous like some of its neighbouring boroughs, but there are stirring stories to be told relating to local families such as the Bosvilles, Wortleys, Straffords, and Beaumonts.

Barnsley can boast of many noble benefactors dating back to remote ages. So long ago as the year 1493 the town was enriched by one Edmund Brookhouse, of Doncaster, who be-

queathed "40 marks of lawful English money for the building, erection, and reparation of three houses, tenements of alms, to be sustained, built, and repaired nigh to the Burial Ground in the town of Barnsley." The tenements formed part of the old Workhouse buildings in St. Mary's Place. In the year 1646 Edmund Rogers, of Barnsley, bequeathed his tithes of corn and grain, with barn laithe, and three roods of land at Thorp Audlin, and on the enclosure of the lands under an Act passed in 1810, 62 acres, 0 roods, and 8 perches of land was set out for the poor of Barnsley in lieu of the tithes and premises given in the will. The rent is now applied in aid of the Barnsley Poor Rate. Thomas Cutler by his will in 1622 bequeathed £40 to be bestowed in land for the benefit of the most needful poor of the parish of Silkstone, and Ellen Cutler, his wife, by her will dated 27th November, 1633, gave a close of land, one half year's rent to be applied to the Barnsley and the other to the Silkstone poor. George Ellis, of Brampton, in 1711 devised to seven trustees at Brampton Bierlow certain lands out of rents of which he gave £6. 13s. 4d. a year for the teaching of twenty of the poorest boys and girls in or about the town of Barnsley, and 20s. yearly to buy them proper books, &c. The National School, Pitt Street, was partly built by the trustees of the charity and partly by contributions. The Shaw Land Trust, which was created by a deed dated 3rd May, in the tenth year of Elizabeth, was a valuable gift to the town. In 1874 Mr. Walter Skirrow, an Inspector of Charities, reported to the Charity Commissioners that after a public inquiry he had found the estate belonging to the charity, consisting of 48 acres, 3 roods, 35 perches of land, let for £188 9s. 11d., and that the income was expended upon the maintenance of the Parochial Charities of St. Mary's, St. George's, and St. John's in Barnsley until 1870. Since that period the income has been applied towards the maintenance and repairs of St. Mary's Church, the Butts used by the Barnsley Rifle Volunteers, the Barnsley Grammar School, Beckett Hospital, Locke Park, and other deserving objects. The Barnsley Grammar School, founded by Thomas Keresforth in 1660, and amalgamated with Archbishop Holgate's Grammar School at Hemsworth, was greatly enriched by Mrs. Phœbe Locke, widow of Joseph Locke, who received the rudiments of his education at that school. Mrs. Locke invested the sum of £3,008 in the

purchase of £3,200 Railway Stock for providing and maintaining ten scholarships for boys not less than ten and not exceeding fourteen years, whose parents reside in the townships of Barnsley and Dodworth. The Locke Scholarship has for years been a prized and well-known institution, and many prominent citizens of the present day feel proud of having been "Locke Scholars."

Other benefactors in more recent years have left standing monuments in the borough which keep their memories, so to speak, ever green. The late Mr. C. Harvey, J.P., of Park House, in addition to enriching the Beckett Hospital, was the means of the town becoming possessed of the Public Hall and Harvey Institute, which provides a home for several admirable institutions such as the School of Art, the Free Library, &c. The name of Locke will never perish whilst the splendid park which bears that honoured name exists, or the Grammar School continues to dispense Mrs. Locke's bounty to the deserving lads of Barnsley. Mining will have ceased to be followed, and the vital industry will have become defunct, before the name of Beckett, so well known in Yorkshire, will cease to be known through that admirable institution the Barnsley Beckett Hospital, the home, so to speak, of the maimed and injured miner and others who carry on their dangerous occupations in South Yorkshire. To that admirable institution the Society adds its mite of £100 per annum. At a later period, but at a very opportune time, Mr. S. J. Cooper, of Mount Vernon, has added a Nurses' Home. The Lambert family, of old Barnsley origin, enlarged the Hospital and Dispensary, and the Coronation Year was marked by the presentation of a Convalescent Ward by Mr. W. Moore, a retired Barnsley linen manufacturer. Other benefactors have more recently enriched Barnsley by their gifts, such as the Kendray Infectious Hospital, the St. Edward's Church at Kingstone Place, given by E. G. Lancaster, Esq., J.P., in memory of his respected father, whilst a living attachment to the town is afforded in the grant of Captain B. C. V. Wentworth, M.P., of Wentworth Castle, in his gift of £300 a year, in addition to subscriptions, to be dispensed to the deserving poor of Barnsley.

To satisfy the tastes of the curious, it may not be without interest to note in what light Barnsley figured in remote ages. Barnsley seems from an early period to have been closely

associated with the monks, and through their influence a charter for holding markets and fairs was granted by Henry III. On the dissolution of the Priory of St. John of Pontefract, the Manors of Barnsley and Dodworth came to the Crown. William III. granted the Manor of Barnsley to W. Bentinck, Earl of Portland, whose grandson (the second Duke) sold it to F. Osborne, fourth Duke of Leeds, in 1735. The Manor was devised by the will of the sixth Duke in 1836 to his son-in-law, Sackville Walter Lane Fox, from whom the Barnsley Local Board purchased the manorial rights of the market and fairs. The land forming the first portion of Locke Park was purchased at an extensive sale of land belonging to the Duke of Leeds at Barnsley in 1861. The tithes were held in 1590 by William Thwaite, gentleman, of Barnsley. After passing through various hands, they were sold in 1776 to the Duke of Leeds, who, at the time of the enclosure of the Barnsley commons and lands in 1777, received allotments of common land in lieu thereof, and a perpetual rent charge per acre and upon buildings.

The town has always been known and quoted in historical times. Its situation in the old coaching days made it known to the traveller, and in the seventeenth century the travelling accommodation was comparatively better than it is to-day with all our boasted railway accommodation. Barnsley being on the through route between Leeds, Wakefield, Sheffield, and London, a large number of coaches passed through the town daily, and its hostelries or stations were then far more attractive than the present accommodation at our wretched railway stations. In 1695 Sir Walter Calverley, of Calverley, records the fact that a stage coach was established and ran from Wakefield to Barnsley, Sheffield, and London, by which he made many journeys. Barnsley is mentioned in a manuscript survey by Warburton, made about 1720, in which he says the town was remarkable for coals and wire, and mentions the cross in Kirk-gate (Church Street). He also gives the dimensions of the market place and says, "In ye middle stands ye Moot Hall." In 1793 in a survey of Yorkshire it is stated that "Barnsley carried on a considerable trade in wire, and had manufactories for bleaching and weaving linen yarns, which is in a flourishing state." The population of Barnsley in 1750 was 1,740, but in 1801, when the first census was taken, it was 3,606. At this

time the report says about 500 hand looms were employed in the town.

Wire drawing, which flourished in the seventeenth century, has gradually become almost defunct, but coal mining has been carried on in the district since the fourteenth century, five persons being fined in 1413 for having sought coal under the lord's waste at Darton without consent. In the sixteenth century the coal on the Keresforth estate was leased to one Abraham Rock.

The earliest mention of a fatal colliery explosion was in July, 1672, when a man named James Townend was killed. Coal pits were opened at Brierley about 1636, and in 1791 two seams of coal were offered for sale at Thurnscoe. In 1716 coal was leased under the Shaw Lands, Barnsley, and from about 1775 a thick seam of coal was worked pretty extensively in Barnsley and the district. The coal trade is no longer extensively carried on in the borough, but Barnsley is still looked upon as the great centre of the South Yorkshire coal-field, which has been so largely developed within a radius of six or eight miles. The growth of the town is still manifest, and its progress has been more marked than any other centre in the county.

Barnsley is at the head of a Parliamentary Division which is the largest in the West Riding, and, although its historical associations are not such as Wakefield, Pontefract, and Sheffield can boast of, its inhabitants pride themselves in its large and prosperous markets (probably the best in Yorkshire) and in its excellent and extending water supply. To these has been recently added an installation of electric lighting and electric tramways. As showing its vitality, it has a municipal debt of about half a million of money, two-thirds of which is being expended in an additional water supply. It has its own borough police, but is still in need of a Town Hall. The Coronation year has been marked by the providing of a mace for the Corporation, and, probably for the first time in the history of this Society, it figures amongst the subscribers for the providing of an emblem of civic dignity.

Although it never rivalled Doncaster, Barnsley had its races in 1717, when the Earl of Stafford gave a piece of plate to be run for on Barnsley Town Moor (now Locke Park). The races, which were for years a flourishing institution, lapsed

about the year 1776, a year before the commons were enclosed. They were recommenced in 1851, and were continued with certain intervals until 1859, when they ceased. In 1774 and other years mains of cocks between gentlemen of Yorkshire and Derbyshire were fought at the sign of the Six Ringers Inn (now White Hart). Bull baiting was considered essential to the town's attractions in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

The growth of the town has been gradual, and it is still increasing. As stated, the population in 1801 was 3,606. In 1811 it was 5,014, an increase of 1,408. In 1821 it totalled 8,284, the increase being the largest during several decades, viz., 3,270. The average since then up to the year of the Society's establishment was about 2,000. During the last thirty years it has, however, increased in population at the rate of about 5,000 each decade. In 1891 it was 35,427, whilst in 1901 it reached 41,086; the Barnsley Union district, in which the Society has a large stake, having about seventy branches, totals 113,521. The working of the thick coal, known as the Barnsley seam, has brought about the large increase in population, and has caused the Society to extend its borders far beyond the Barnsley Union. A large portion of the population is almost inseparable from the town itself, and two of the largest places—Wombwell and Hoyland—are showing aspirations to become boroughs just as Barnsley is on the threshold of developing into a county borough itself.

During the last twenty years Barnsley has made marked progress in building operations, in which the Society has been deeply interested. In the year 1880, 175 buildings were certified. During the next four years building operations were slow. In 1885 only 109 buildings were certified. In 1888, 108; and only 71 in 1889. From 1893 to 1902, however, no fewer than 1,677 buildings were certified. At the time the history was being compiled houses were being rapidly erected, and, strange to say, scarcely one is to be found empty. The total ratable value in 1902 was £135,488. The gross estimated rental is £165,678. The ratable value of agricultural land is £2,041, and that of buildings and other hereditaments £133,397.



CHAPTER XXVII.

Presidents.

1862	WILLIAM TINKER.
1863	JOHN CORLESS.
1864 to 1866.....	WILLIAM TINKER.
1867	JAMES KAY.
1868	WILLIAM TINKER.
1869	BENJAMIN PINDER.
1870 to 1872.....	JOHN BUTCHER.
1873 to 1881.....	BENJAMIN HAGUE.
1882 to 1898.....	JAMES FAIRCLOUGH.
1899	JOHN ELLIOTT.

Secretaries.

1862	ROBERT STEEL.
1863 to 1867.....	GEORGE LAWTON.
1868 to 1895.....	GEORGE KAY.
1896	CHARLES ED. WHITHAM.

Members of the Committee from 1862 to 1902.

1862.

G. ADCROFT.	W. MORLEY.	W. SUMMERS.
N. MATTHEWS.	J. RAY.	W. TINKER.
J. KAYE.	G. LAWTON.	R. STEEL.
B. PINDER.	J. CORLESS.	

The two last named were Treasurer and Secretary *pro tem*.

1863.

G. ADCROFT.	C. LEES.	M. HAIGH.
W. HILDRED.	T. RHYMER.	J. WRAY.
W. PARKIN.	J. KNOWTHORPE.	J. CORLESS.

1864.

C. CROSSLEY.	W. PARKIN.	J. GARLICK.
B. BLAKEY.	W. WOOD.	W. TINKER.
W. HILDRED.	T. RHYMER.	J. K. FOX.

1865.

J. K. FOX.	W. HOEY.	B. BLAKEY.
J. CORLESS.	J. KAYE.	J. LOCKWOOD.
T. SMEATON.	W. TAYLOR.	W. TINKER.

1866.

B. BLAKEY.	J. KAYE.	J. TAYLOR.
W. HOEY.	J. BARRACLOUGH.	J. LOCKWOOD.
I. HAIGH.	J. BUCKLEY.	W. TINKER.

1867.

J. BUCKLEY.	G. MILNER.	W. LOCKWOOD.
J. DENT.	C. CROSSLEY.	J. LOCKWOOD.
T. WARD.	I. WALKER.	J. KAYE.

J. Lockwood resigned, and J. Dent was elected in his stead for his term of office.

1868.

T. WARD.	J. PEARSON.	J. LEWISS.
T. BURROWS.	T. NAYLOR.	J. BRITTAIN.
J. BUTCHER.	W. ASHWORTH.	W. TINKER.

1869.

B. HAGUE.	T. WARD.	B. BLAKEY.
T. BURROWS.	J. BUTCHER.	T. WHITHAM.
C. CROSSLEY.	J. KAYE.	B. PINDER.

1870.

B. HAGUE.	W. HOEY.	B. BLAKEY.
T. BURROWS.	T. WARD.	J. KAYE.
B. PINDER.	C. CROSSLEY.	JOHN BUTCHER.

1871.

B. HAGUE.	B. BLAKEY.	J. WASHINGTON.
B. PINDER.	B. CLARKSON.	I. HAIGH.
T. WARD.	J. FAIRCLOUGH.	JOHN BUTCHER.

1872.

JOHN BUTCHER.	B. CLARKSON.	D. EDDLESTONE.
B. HAGUE.	GILES FAIRCLOUGH.	T. WHITHAM.
B. PINDER.	CHARLES CROSSLEY.	B. BAILEY.

1873.

B. HAGUE.	B. CLARKSON.	W. HOEY.
JOHN BUTCHER.	J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.
B. PINDER.	D. EDDLESTONE.	W. BATTY.

1874.

B. HAGUE.	B. CLARKSON.	J. PEARSON.
JOHN BUTCHER.	F. BIRTLES.	D. EDDLESTONE.
B. PINDER.	J. FAIRCLOUGH.	W. HOEY.

1875.

B. HAGUE.	JOHN BUTCHER.	B. CLARKSON.
B. PINDER.	J. FAIRCLOUGH.	ELIJAH FISHER.
D. EDDLESTONE.	W. HOEY.	F. BIRTLES.

1876.

B. HAGUE.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	G. SCHOLEY.
B. PINDER.	F. BIRTLES.	N. MATTHEWS.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. WARD.	PRIOR.

1877.

B. HAGUE.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	G. SCHOLEY.
D. EDDLESTONE.	B. PINDER.	N. MATTHEWS.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. WARD.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.

1878.

B. HAGUE.	F. BIRTLES.	N. MATTHEWS.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. WARD.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	G. SCHOLEY.	JOHN BROWN.

1879.

B. HAGUE.	F. BIRTLES.	N. MATTHEWS.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. WARD.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	T. J. PICK.	E. FISHER.

1880-1881.

B. HAGUE.	T. J. PICK.	G. SCHOLEY.
N. MATTHEWS.	T. WARD.	F. BIRTLES.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.	G. WHEELHOUSE.

1882.

B. HAGUE.	T. J. PICK.	G. SCHOLEY.
N. MATTHEWS.	J. BROWN.	F. BIRTLES.
J. FAIRCLOUGH.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.	G. WHEELHOUSE.

1883.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	JAMES IRVING.	D. EDDLESTONE.
T. J. PICK.	J. BROWN.	F. BIRTLES.
W. R. PLEWS.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.	G. WHEELHOUSE.

1884.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	J. BROWN.	J. ELLIOTT.
J. IRVING.	F. BIRTLES.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.
T. J. PICK.	D. EDDLESTONE.	G. WHEELHOUSE.

1885.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	E. HAYWOOD.	J. ELLIOTT.
J. IRVING.	F. BIRTLES.	G. W. E. WRIGHT.
T. J. PICK.	D. EDDLESTONE.	G. WHEELHOUSE.

1886.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	ISRAËL STRINGER.
J. IRVING.	J. ELLIOTT.	E. FISHER.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	J. DUNBAR.

1887.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	T. BROADHEAD.
J. IRVING.	J. ELLIOTT.	G. HODGSON.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	E. HAYWOOD.

1888.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
J. IRVING.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	J. TOMLINSON.

1889.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
R. W. LOCKWOOD.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	E. S. BYCRAFT.

1890.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
R. W. LOCKWOOD.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	D. EDDLESTONE.

1891.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
R. W. LOCKWOOD.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	D. EDDLESTONE.

1892.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
R. W. LOCKWOOD.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	D. EDDLESTONE.

1893.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
R. W. LOCKWOOD.	G. R. BALL.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. WHEELHOUSE.	D. EDDLESTONE.

1894.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	D. EDDLESTONE.	E. HAYWOOD.
T. J. PICK.	G. R. BALL.	N. MATTHEWS.

1895.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	D. EDDLESTONE.	E. HAYWOOD.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	T. J. PICK.	G. R. BALL.
F. BIRTLES.	J. ELLIOTT.	N. MATTHEWS.

1896.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. J. PICK.	E. HAYWOOD.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	G. PORTER.	N. MATTHEWS.
D. EDDLESTONE.	J. ELLIOTT.	H. WOODHEAD.

1897.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	T. J. PICK.	E. HAYWOOD.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	F. BIRTLES.	N. MATTHEWS.
D. EDDLESTONE.	J. ELLIOTT.	H. WOODHEAD.

1898.

J. FAIRCLOUGH.	D. EDDLESTONE.	J. ELLIOTT.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	F. BIRTLES.	H. WOODHEAD.
T. J. PICK.	E. HAYWOOD.	A. J. WROE.

1899.

J. ELLIOTT.	D. EDDLESTONE.	N. MATTHEWS.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	F. BIRTLES.	H. WOODHEAD.
T. J. PICK.	E. HAYWOOD.	A. J. WROE.

1900.

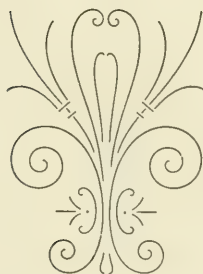
J. ELLIOTT.	D. EDDLESTONE.	H. WOODHEAD.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	F. BIRTLES.	A. J. WROE.
T. J. PICK.	N. MATTHEWS.	M. GILLEGHAN.

1901.

J. ELLIOTT.	D. EDDLESTONE.	A. J. WROE.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	F. BIRTLES.	M. GILLEGHAN.
T. J. PICK.	H. WOODHEAD.	E. AKEROYD.

1902.

J. ELLIOTT.	A. J. WROE.	E. AKEROYD.
G. WHEELHOUSE.	H. WOODHEAD.	E. HAYWOOD.
D. EDDLESTONE.	M. GILLEGHAN.	S. PEACE.



Places of Business and Managers.

Wellington Street.....	B. EVISON.
Flour Shop	W. HARRIS.
Boots.....	W. REEVE.
Drapery.....	J. H. TAYLOR.
Tailoring.....	R. P. WALLER.
Furnishing	F. DUFF.
Butchering	J. H. TAYLOR.
Restaurant	A. ATHA.
Confectionery	MISS TURTON.
Fish and Game	A. LUTHER.
Peel Street.....	G. HEALD.
Sheffield Road.....	J. BEAUMONT.
Racecommon Road	T. IRVING.
Eldon Street North.....	J. TURNER.
Park Road.....	G. E. RUSBY.
Sackville Street	G. CRAGG.
Beechfield.....	T. COOPER.
Doncaster Road.....	J. NICHOLAS.
Agnes Road	F. NETTLETON.
Farrar Street.....	E. TURTON.
Dodworth.....	J. E. JONES.
Wombwell.....	H. HIRST.
Higham.....	T. HARDCASTLE.
Warren.....	W. VERNON.
Ardsley.....	J. FAIRCLOUGH.
Gawber.....	H. JOHNSON.
Penistone	A. BREWER.
Worsbro' Dale.....	A. JONES.
Hoyland Common.....	B. MOORHOUSE.
Hoyland Nether.....	T. FLATHER.
Mapplewell.....	P. HIGSON.
Monk Bretton	A. BIBBING.
Hoyle Mill	T. GREEN.
Darfield.....	A. L. OWRAM.
Silkstone.....	W. GOODALL.
West Melton.....	T. TYAS.
Swinton.....	A. ADDY.
Darton.....	J. OWRAM.

High Green.....	J. W. HOWARTH.
Birdwell.....	A. HAYWOOD.
Hemingfield.....	C. E. CHADWICK.
Elsecar.....	I. STRINGER.
Chapelton.....	D. DICKINSON.
Roystone.....	G. SKIDMORE.
Park Street, Wombwell.....	J. A. ROBINSON.
Pilley.....	H. PINDER.
New England	A. YOUEL.
Jump.....	J. W. FARROW.
Platts Common	W. FAIRCLOUGH.
Cudworth.....	F. PARKINSON.
Hemsworth.....	J. B. HINCHCLIFFE.
Carlton.....	S. STRINGER.
Bolton-upon-Dearne	R. ROBINSON.
Ryhill.....	E. MUXLOW.
Roman Terrace.....	H. SILVESTER.
Wath	H. REID.
Great Houghton.....	W. W. HANSON.
Thurlstone.....	J. SKIDMORE.
Stairfoot.....	Mrs. AMBLER.
Thurnscoe.....	J. H. HIRST.
Barnsley Road, Wombwell.....	W. SKIDMORE.
Wombwell Drapery.....	A. LEDGER.
" Boots.....	J. GRUNDY.
" Tailoring.....	J. R. G. HEY.
Hoyland Drapery.....	J. BROWN.
" Boots	A. H. CRAVEN.
" Tailoring.....	G. WELLOCK.
West Melton Drapery.....	H. TURTON.
" Boots.....	R. ELLIS.
Swinton Drapery.....	G. ROSEVEARE.
" Boots.....	H. HINCHCLIFFE.
Chapletown Drapery	G. CHARLESWORTH.
" Boots	L. SMITH.
Hemsworth Drapery.....	K. RILEY.
" Boots.....	A. TAYLOR.

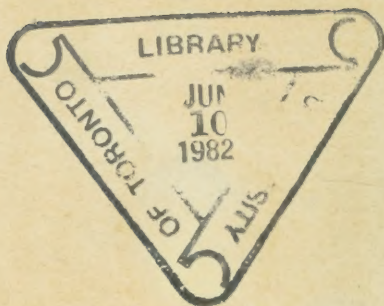
Progress of the Society,

From its Commencement in March, 1862, to December, 1902.

Year ending	Number of Members.	Capital.			Business Done.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1862	178	335	0	0	1772	14	4
1863	307	855	0	0	6259	0	9
1864	420	1410	0	0	9390	1	4
1865	577	1847	16	0	13063	5	0
1866	860	3530	5	0	24013	0	0
1867	889	4515	12	1	29516	16	3
1868	947	4915	15	7	25579	1	4
1869	1184	5961	17	0	30621	11	10
1870	1457	8320	13	0	36722	3	8
1871	1902	11672	14	0	51950	11	4
1872	2522	19530	1	10	68649	0	1
1873	3524	26506	6	5	109544	1	9
1874	4078	33061	2	10	129418	11	4
1875	4573	42349	4	10	134699	8	1
1876	5226	49675	18	4	151370	9	10
1877	5336	52394	19	1	161347	17	10
1878	5262	53339	15	8	149314	2	4
1879	5475	59897	16	2	153739	6	9
1880	5977	65741	18	4	176847	5	10
1881	6446	75807	1	0	188514	0	6
1882	7522	89138	14	4	215421	9	0
1883	8424	101339	8	7	253511	12	5
1884	9465	118627	1	8	266616	16	2
1885	9820	128838	13	11	260112	3	8
1886	10680	138276	3	9	283902	17	6
1887	10583	142472	17	0	293876	3	6
1888	10370	142847	0	7	292635	8	6
1889	10807	157779	10	4	327704	12	0
1890	12228	198362	8	8	395433	6	11
1891	13834	240789	7	6	498489	13	0
1892	15100	273760	4	8	531963	15	11
1893	14980	253287	2	2	482129	0	0
1894	15415	274119	12	7	471626	13	6
1895	15773	300455	17	9	467172	16	1
1896	16627	327864	15	9	505541	10	4
1897	17288	348451	3	7	529881	1	5
1898	17452	369934	9	11	547885	6	9
1899	18195	408567	8	1	579431	4	7
1900	19193	443885	6	4	654455	9	1
1901	19825	474150	11	5	688141	6	2
1902	20781	501687	1	4	718618	11	3
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10916883	7	11

From its commencement in March, 1862, to December, 1902.

Year ending	Profits.			Average Dividends.		Reserve Fund.			Insurance Fund.		
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1862	88	18	7	1	0	24	5	5	.....	.....	.....
1863	289	3	6	0	11½	31	4	9	.....	.....	.....
1864	476	5	5	1	0	56	14	2	.....	.....	.....
1865	707	7	7	1	0	54	1	2	.....	.....	.....
1866	1149	18	11	1	0	101	0	2	.....	.....	.....
1867	1252	3	7	0	8	147	10	10	.....	.....	.....
1868	949	11	10	1	1	147	10	10	.....	.....	.....
1869	1917	5	8	1	1	53	5	6	.....	.....	.....
1870	2494	5	9	1	3	53	5	6	.....	.....	.....
1871	3747	15	11	1	3	53	5	6	.....	.....	.....
1872	6582	17	4	1	7	53	5	6	.....	.....	.....
1873	9402	5	2	1	6	53	5	6	.....	.....	.....
1874	12649	12	1	1	9	193	16	8	.....	.....	.....
1875	14587	11	2	1	10½	263	14	11	.....	.....	.....
1876	17223	17	11	1	11½	363	14	11	.....	.....	.....
1877	16725	12	8	1	8½	463	14	11	.....	.....	.....
1878	16084	15	11	1	9½	563	14	11	.....	.....	.....
1879	18355	8	3	1	11	783	14	3	.....	.....	.....
1880	19561	16	11	1	9¼	1023	6	0	.....	.....	.....
1881	24699	15	11	2	2½	1205	11	11	.....	.....	.....
1882	26698	17	6	2	2	1582	4	5	.....	.....	.....
1883	33835	14	8	2	3	1605	2	9	.....	.....	.....
1884	40005	7	1	2	6	1925	13	7	.....	.....	.....
1885	40859	10	3	2	7	2019	3	10	.....	.....	.....
1886	41142	1	11	2	4	2131	14	11	.....	.....	.....
1887	41138	19	11	2	2½	2205	6	11	.....	.....	.....
1888	38849	15	11	2	0½	2370	1	10	.....	.....	.....
1889	44183	13	7	2	1	1197	13	0	.....	.....	.....
1890	57118	4	2	2	4½	1524	4	3	.....	.....	.....
1891	75176	1	1	2	6½	1831	8	7	.....	.....	.....
1892	78341	1	0	2	5½	2125	2	6	.....	.....	.....
1893	70679	12	1	2	4	1155	0	8	.....	.....	.....
1894	71217	7	8	2	3½	585	14	1	.....	.....	.....
1895	77108	2	7	2	6½	1321	4	11	.....	.....	.....
1896	82078	6	10	2	6½	1605	2	8	.....	.....	.....
1897	82679	1	9	2	4½	1923	16	2	.....	.....	.....
1898	87862	4	8	2	6	2165	9	5	1446	8	11
1899	93103	18	1	2	6½	2654	19	9	2619	4	10
1900	101157	4	6	2	4½	3058	17	10	2835	10	1
1901	111946	3	10	2	7½	3315	8	7	3074	17	8
1902	115292	13	9	2	6½	1969	7	4	3344	8	0
1579420			12	11



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